

CELEBRATING THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE **2011 UNESCO**
RECOMMENDATION
ON THE

HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE

23 JUNE 2021
**LAUNCH OF THE HUL
CALL FOR ACTION!**

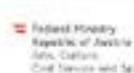
24 JUNE 2021
**HUL FOR WORLD
HERITAGE CITIES!**



Gobierno de Puebla
Placer Histórico, Placer Futuro



Secretaría
de Cultura



ASSOCIAZIONE
CITTÀ ITALIANE
PATRIMONIO
MONDIALE



Historic England



STADT : SALZBURG



GRAZ

Project Director: Jyoti Hosagrahar

UNESCO Project Team: Alba Victoria Zamarbide Urdaniz, Giacomo Martinis, Carlota Marijuán Rodríguez, Tharmila Vigneswaranathan, Eamonn Drumm

Proofreading: Julie Wickenden

Contact:

World Heritage Cities Programme
worldheritagecities@unesco.org
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/cities/>
7, place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris 07 SP
France

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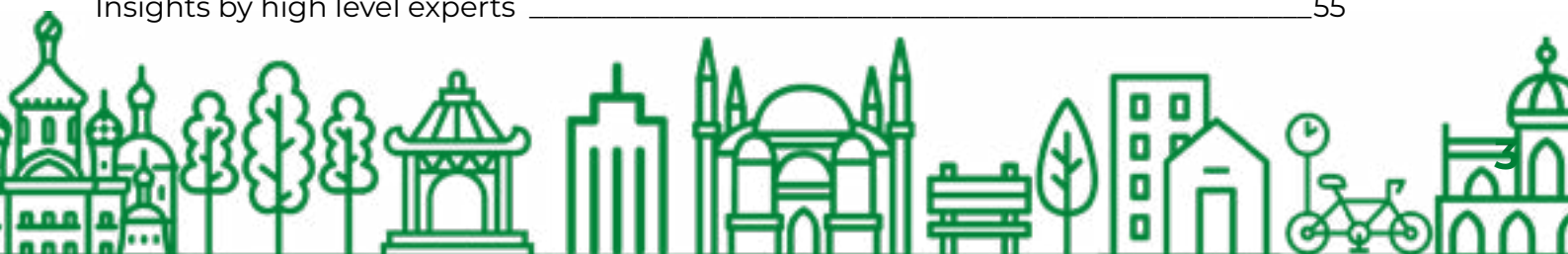
With the generous contribution of the City of Queretaro, Mexico; Secretaría de Cultura del Gobierno del Estado de Puebla, Mexico; Regional World Heritage Institute Zacatecas, Mexico; Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport; City of Graz, Austria; City of Salzburg, Austria; Historic England, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Association of Italian World Heritage Properties; City of San Gimignano, Italy; City of Nanjing, China; UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe; and UNESCO National Office to Mexico

Please note that case studies included here are based on the contribution from the site managers and do not imply approval or assessment of the particular proposal. The practices shared are included as a record of the event and with a view to further urban heritage management practice in general.



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SUMMARY

The 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) took place online through a launch event for the UNESCO HUL Call for Action and a global conference on the application of the HUL Recommendation to World Heritage cities.

The online events, consisting of several meetings and workshops, took place between 16 and 24 June 2021, marking the beginning of the celebrations. The events gathered more than 86 speakers (including 9 Mayors/city leaders and 35 renowned experts) from 39 countries. Site managers and city authorities presented case studies from 19 World Heritage cities and 15 mayors and heads of organisations provided video messages re-confirming the importance of the HUL Recommendation and reaffirming their commitment to support the UNESCO HUL Call for Action. The four days of exchange and discussion provided a rich opportunity to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned from the local strategies and actions to implement the HUL Recommendation.

By the numbers



39
countries
represented



19
case studies



70
specialists



35
experts



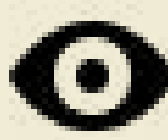
1232
online viewers



24
mayors, ministers
and city officials



45%
women
participants



3100+
YouTube views



86
speakers



100+
responses to
the HUL Call
for Action

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23 June 2021

On 23 June, the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the HUL Recommendation was opened by Mr Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, who launched the HUL Call for Action, inviting cities worldwide to raise awareness about the Recommendation and accelerate inclusive urban heritage management through the HUL Recommendation approach. Mayors and City leaders from all regions of the world gathered in two panels to share experiences and perspectives on the application of HUL in their cities, followed by a session of insights provided by high-level experts.

24 June 2021

On 24 June, the session Implementing the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage Cities engaged heritage professionals, experts, and representatives around two round tables on the topics of the role of heritage in sustainable development, local communities' involvement in urban policies, and the relationship between natural and built heritage, among others. The session was opened by the Director of the World Heritage Centre, Ms Mechtild Rössler, who highlighted the importance of the HUL Recommendation for World Heritage cities, urban planning, and future generations. The six Rapporteurs presented the case studies collected and analysed during the preparatory technical meetings. Finally, the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, provided a summary of the lessons learned during the four-day event, outlining the steps forward in the implementation of the HUL Recommendation.

Technical Sessions

On 16 and 21 June, six preliminary technical sessions were carried out, including 19 case studies examining the implementation of the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage Cities in the different world regions. With the contribution of high-level Chairs and Rapporteurs, the sessions highlighted the central role of urban heritage and culture for sustainable development, and its potential to address current challenges such as climate change, community engagement, as well as recovery and resilience in the context of the ongoing pandemic crisis. All times are Paris time (CEST).

Consult the dedicated website

CONCEPT NOTE

Cities are growing exponentially. Today, more than half of humanity lives in urban areas, and the number is projected to rise to nearly 70% by 2050¹. The pressure to meet the increasing needs of their residents have led to rapid development, often at the sacrifice of urban heritage. While interventions appear to focus on the protection and conservation of monuments and iconic sites, more ordinary fabric of historic areas such as houses and public spaces tend to be left aside. Local communities find themselves disconnected from their local areas, where they had transmitted their traditions over generations. The know-how required for conservation or repairs of such places are also in peril. These losses jeopardize the world's cultural diversity as well as the identity of our cities.

For decades, UNESCO has upheld the importance of cities as rich repositories of history, heritage and identity accumulated over centuries. Recognized for their Outstanding Universal Value not only to the residents but to all of humanity, more than 300 cities are currently inscribed on the World Heritage List². These historic cities work to protect unique local features, so future generations may enjoy the authenticity and integrity of these diverse settlements around the world.³

At the same time, the need for conservation and human-centred urban planning extends well beyond World Heritage Cities. In this spirit, the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) was adopted as an inclusive heritage-management approach open to all⁴. In order to reconcile heritage conservation and sustainable development, cities look to HUL as the necessary framework for sustainable, liveable cities.⁵ The pandemic has further revealed the downside of rapid urbanization, as cities account for over 90% of the COVID-19 cases. Urban areas also have the responsibility to mitigate crises, including those related to climate change impacts, as researches suggest that 70% of the world's green-house gases are emitted in cities.

The 10th anniversary of HUL comes at an opportune moment. The HUL approach proposes the World-Heritage Listed as well as non-Listed cities a new paradigm to achieve a more sustainable, human-centred urban future. Throughout 2021, efforts will be made to raise awareness and mainstream this underutilized UNESCO Recommendation among the World Heritage Cities and beyond.

- 1 Learn more about the global urbanization trends and figures in UN report World Urbanization Prospects (2018): <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf>
- 2 The UNESCO World Heritage Centre is the Secretariat of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage governed by the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Cities Programme, of which the 313 cities are part, is one of the six thematic programmes monitored by the World Heritage Committee as of 2001.
- 3 Learn more about the Fukuoka Outcomes at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1516/>
- 4 The General Conference of UNESCO adopted the Recommendation on 10 November 2011. Read the texts in full: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul>
- 5 See the result of the 2019 HUL survey: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/172639>

Objectives

The HUL Anniversary Event (23-24 June) not only marks the start of the 2021 celebration but serves as a catalyst for greater adoptions of the HUL approach. At the same time, the event serves as a platform to share lessons learned from COVID-19 and to resume discussions on the future of urban management. Topics such as public space, renovations, tourism, infrastructure and livelihoods will be explored. The Recommendation will provide an overall framework, while local needs and resources determine the implementation form.

On 23 June, the HUL Call for Action will be launched. The Call breaks the Recommendation down into concrete “Three Actions” (see “Call for Action”), in order to promote the HUL implementation for cities. The main participants will be Mayors, partners and high-level representatives from World Heritage and non-World Heritage cities, as they have the capacity to champion and mainstream the approach in their urban planning. Following the launch, panel discussions will explore the role of the Recommendation within the post-COVID-19 urban setting. Thematic lenses such as crisis response and recovery and local-actor empowerment will closely reflect the Call.

The 24 June session will focus on the application of the HUL approach to the World Heritage cities. Challenges triggered by the pandemic such as the drop in tourism and restricted urban-based activities will be discussed, with HUL serving as a potential mitigation framework. The invitees will consist of site managers, national focal points, city planning departments and experts, devising in-depth, practical conversations. Case studies collected, analyzed and developed during preparatory technical meetings will also be presented.

The tailored approach, which considers the differing needs of the World Heritage and non-World Heritage cities, as well as roles played by high-level participants and technical actors, allow for targeted advocacy, effective knowledge exchange, and attainment of commitment at multiple levels. Together, the HUL Anniversary will advocate for a sustainable and local-led urban recovery and relaunch the HUL Recommendation towards global implementation.

Outcomes and sustainability

Following the Anniversary event, the summary of the rapporteurs, case studies, participants in the Call for Action and panel discussions will be compiled and widely diffused among the World Heritage and non-World Heritage Cities to raise awareness about HUL.

In addition, cities and towns who join the Call for Action will be documented by UNESCO for future follow-up. A few cities will be further selected to develop in-depth case studies on their implementation of the Three Actions, to be developed into a report in 2022.

Partnerships

The Anniversary event has been collaboratively developed with the support of:

- City of Queretaro, Mexico;
- Secretaría de Cultura del Gobierno del Estado de Puebla, Mexico;
- Regional World Heritage Institute Zacatecas, Mexico;
- Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport
- City of Graz, Austria;
- City of Salzburg, Austria;
- Historic England, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- Association of Italian World Heritage Properties;
- City of San Gimignano, Italy;
- City of Nanjing, China
- UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
- UNESCO National Office to Mexico



CALL FOR ACTION

Cities tell the story of humanity.

Today, more than half of humanity lives in urban areas, and the number is projected to rise to nearly 70% percent by 2050.

The combination of history, culture, nature and heritage makes cities a unique and integral part of the world's diversity. This multi-layered 'urban landscape' is also a major economic and social engine to create a liveable, viable, human-centred city.

As cities flourish, they face growing demands. Urbanization, population growth and globalization have prompted rapid development, often at odds with urban heritage conservation. The effects of climate change and natural disasters are tangibly felt by cities, threatening their way of life.

The UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) proposes a new perspective on cities – urban development and heritage conservation as complementing elements towards sustainable urban futures, rather than conflicting interests.

UNESCO invites all cities and towns to join the Call for Action to raise awareness about the Recommendation and to accelerate inclusive urban and heritage management through HUL. Any group or individual joining the Call can fill out the online form below:

Join the Call online

Action 1

Sensitize local and national actors about the HUL approach and encourage its implementation.

→ Based on the key principles of the HUL

Action 2

Promote a local consultation process to empower stakeholders including NGOs, public and private stakeholders to support a HUL-driven urban development

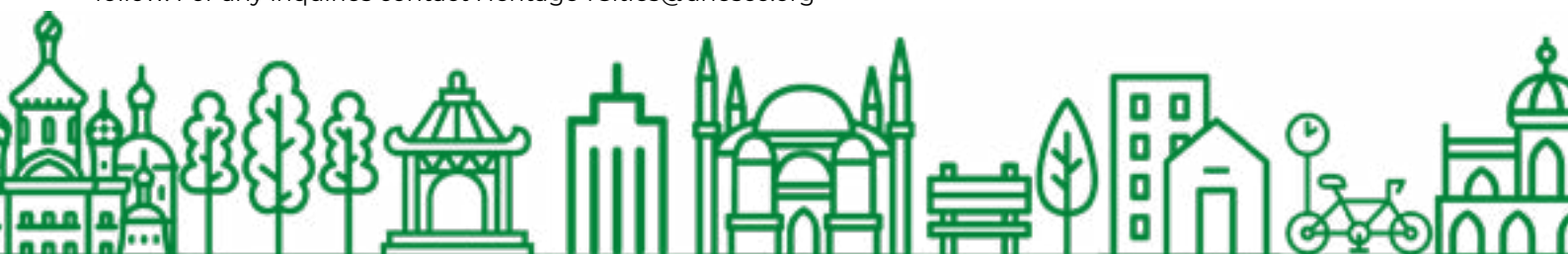
→ By joining the UNESCO network and exchanging on good practices*

Action 3

Develop local heritage management actions based on the HUL approach

→ By joining the UNESCO network and exchanging on good practices*

*Expressions of interest can be submitted through the online form above. Further exchanges for collaboration will follow. For any inquiries contact Heritage4Cities@unesco.org



AGENDA

23 June: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape – and Launch of the HUL Call for Action

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 13.00 – 13.03 | Opening video |
| 13.03 – 13.10 | Launch of the HUL Call for Action by Mr Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture |
| 13.10 – 13.20 | An Introduction to the HUL Recommendation, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector |
| 13.20 – 13.25 | Video messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia, Mr Nadiem Anwar Makarim • Florence (Italy) – Mayor, Mr Dario Nardella |
| 13.25 – 14.10 | Panel 1 – “Towards crisis-ready urban heritage”. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) – Mayor, Mr Solomon Mguni • Grand-Bassam (Cote d'Ivoire) – Mayor, Mr Jean Louis Moulot • Beirut (Lebanon) – Councilor to the Mayor, Ms Matilda Khoury • Ahmedabad (India) – Municipal Commissioner, Mr Mukesh Kumar • Beijing (China) – Mayor, Mr Chen Jining (video message) • Ballarat (Australia) – Mayor, Mr Daniel Maloney (video message) |
| 14.15 – 15.00 | Panel 2 – “Empowering local communities for human-centred urban future”. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Querétaro (Mexico) – Mayor, Mr Miguel Antonio Parrodi Espinosa • Abomey (Benin) – Mayor, Mr Kossi Antoine Louis Djedou • Gorée (Senegal) – Mayor, Mr Augustin Senghor • Dubrovnik (Croatia) – Deputy Mayor, Ms Jelka Tepšić • Carthage (Tunisia) – Mayor, Ms Hayet Bayoudh • Graz (Austria) – Mayor, Mr Siegfried Nagl (video message) • Guanajuato (Mexico) – Mayor, Mr Alejandro Navarro (video message) |
| 15.10 – 15.45 | Insights by high-level experts. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Vishaan Chakrabarti - William W. Wurster Dean, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley • Ms Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Director: ICLEI Africa • Ms Firdaous Oussidhoum, Special Adviser to UCLG Secretary General • Mr J. Luterbacher, PhD, Director Science and Innovation Dept., Chief Scientist WMO, World Meteorological Organization WMO, Geneva, Switzerland |
| 15.45 – 15.50 | Video messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paris (France) – Deputy Mayor for Heritage History of Paris and Relations with Religions, Ms Karen Taïeb • Cordoba (Spain) – Mayor, Mr José María Bellido |

15.50 – 15.55	Closing remarks by the Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector, UNESCO
15.55 – 16.00	Closing video: State of Puebla (Mexico) – Secretary for Culture for the State of Puebla

24 June: Implementing the HUL Recommendation in World Heritage Cities

13.00 – 13.03	Opening video
13.03 – 13.10	Opening remarks by the Director, World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector, UNESCO
13.10 – 13.20	HUL Recommendation for World Heritage cities, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector, UNESCO
13.20 – 13.25	Video messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nasser Kamel, Secretary-General, Union for the Mediterranean • Ms Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary-General, Europa Nostra
13.25 – 13.45	Panel 1: Regional Reports from Preparatory Technical Meetings: The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia and the Pacific: Ms Shikha Jain, Vice-president of ICOMOS-ICOFORT and expert member of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes. • Africa: Ms Ishanlosen Odiaua, Vice-president, ICOMOS Nigeria • Latin America and the Caribbean: Ms Maya Ishizawa, heritage specialist, member of ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes
13.45 – 13.50	Video message from Mr Carlo Francini, Site Manager, Florence (Italy)
13.50 – 14.30	Round Table 1. Chair: Ms Minja Yang, senior heritage expert. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Laura Petrella, Leader of the City Planning, Extension and Design Unit at UN-Habitat • Mr Pier Luigi Sacco, Senior Researcher, OECD • Mr Tim Badman, Director, IUCN World Heritage Programme, IUCN and Mr Russell Galt, Head of Urban Alliance, IUCN • Mr Pietro Elisei, President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) (apologies) • Mr Yukio Nishimura, Professor, Kokugakuin University, Japan • Mr Jad Tabet, President of the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut • Mr Edgar Pieterse, South African Research Chair on Urban Policy and Director of the African Cities Center at the University of Cape Town • Mr Rogier van den Berg, Director Urban Development, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute • Ms Patricia Greene, Senior Lecturer in Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Technology, Jamaica; Jamaican Institute of Architects (MJIA); Coordinator UNESCO / UNITWIN Network

- 14.30 – 14.35 Video messages:
- Mr Jean-Paul A.M. Corten, Senior Policy Officer, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
 - Mr Marco Pasquali, Mayor of Sabbioneta, and Ms Alessandra Riccadonna, Town Councillor of Mantua (Italy)
- 14.35 – 14.55 Panel 2: Regional Reports from Preparatory Technical Meetings. The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in:
- Europe and North America (session 1): Ms Carola Hein, full professor and Chair, History of Architecture and Urban Planning, Delft University of Technology
 - Arab states: Ms Imane Bennani, Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat
 - Europe and North America (session 2): Ms Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director at WHITRAP Shanghai, member of ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages, and ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes.
- 14.55 – 15.05 Video messages:
- Mr Sergey Makarov, Chief of the Committee for the state preservation of historical and cultural monuments, Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation)
 - Historic City of Vigan (Philippines)
- 15.05 – 15.40 Round Table 2. Chair: Mr Michael Turner, Professor, Bezalel School of Architecture. Speakers:
- Ms Lee Minaidis, Interim Secretary General, Organization of World Heritage Cities
 - Mr Ratish Nanda, CEO, Aga Khan Trust for Culture
 - Mr Sergio Vergara, Culture Secretary of the State of Puebla, Mexico
 - Mr Alpha Diop, architect, president of ICOMOS Mali, vice-president of ICOMOS International, Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mali
 - Ms Susan Macdonald, Head, Buildings and Sites, Getty Conservation Institute
 - Mr Joe King, Director of Partnership and Communication, ICCROM
 - Mr Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Deputy Director, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH)
 - Ms Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director, WHITRAP Shanghai
- 15.40 – 15.45 Video message:
- City of Queretaro (Mexico)
- 15.45 – 15.55 Wrap up: designing the way forward. Conclusion by Ms Hosagrahar, Deputy Director UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- 15.55 – 16.00 Videos:
- World Heritage sites “Historic Centre of the City of Pienza” and “Val d’Orcia” (Italy)
 - World Heritage site “Complex of Hué Monuments” (Viet Nam)

Preliminary Technical Sessions 16 June

10.00 – 11.30	<u>Preliminary Technical Session 1:</u> The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in Asia and the Pacific (English only)
10.00 – 10.10	Opening by Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
10.10 – 10.20	Introduction of issues and questions by Session Chair Ms Elizabeth Vines, heritage expert, ICOMOS Australia
10.20 – 10.30	Case study: Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, Australia: Consulting with community to understand heritage values at an urban World Heritage site
10.30 – 10.40	Case study: Ancient City of Ping Yao, China: Conservation and Revitalization Programme of Ancient City of Ping Yao
10.40 – 10.50	Participants' reflections on HUL implementation through interactive poll
10.50 – 11.20	Interactive Discussion and Q&A
11.20 – 11.30	Summary by Rapporteur Ms Shikha Jain, Vice-president of ICOMOS-ICOFORT and expert member of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes.
12.00 – 13.30	<u>Preliminary Technical Session 2:</u> The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in Africa (simultaneous interpretation English/French)
12.00 – 12.03	Opening by Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
12.03 – 12.15	Introduction of issues and questions by Session Chair Mr Souayibou Varissou, Executive Director, African World Heritage Fund
12.15 – 12.23	Case study: Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire: The Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, facing the challenge of sustainable development in Côte d'Ivoire
12.25 – 12.33	Case study: Island of Saint-Louis, Senegal
12.35 – 12.43	Case study: Old Towns of Djenné, Mali: Regularisation to save the ancient fabric of Djenné
12.45 – 12.53	Case study: Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande, Cabo Verde: Cultural entrepreneurship
12.55 – 13.00	Participants' reflections on HUL implementation through interactive poll
13.00 – 13.20	Interactive Discussion and Q&A
13.20 – 13.30	Summary by Rapporteur Ms Ishanlosen Odiaua, Vice-president, ICOMOS Nigeria
15.30 – 17.00	<u>Preliminary Technical Session 3:</u> The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean (simultaneous interpretation English/Spanish)
15.30 – 15.33	Opening by Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
15.33 – 15.45	Introduction of issues and questions by Session Chair Mr Eduardo Rojas, architect and planner, Lecturer at the Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania
15.45 – 15.53	Case study: Historic Centre of Puebla, Mexico. The historic city and its neighbourhood systems in the World Heritage site: San Francisco, Puebla (State Government of Puebla)
15.55 – 16.03	Case study: Historic Centre of Puebla, Mexico. Protection of the historic urban landscape in the historic centre of Puebla (Municipality of Puebla)

16.05 – 16.13	Case study: Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso, Chile. Restauration of the Tassara building in Echaurren Square, Valparaíso. Dwelling / Commerce / Community spaces.
16.15 – 16.23	Case study: Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines, Mexico. Management Unit of the Historic Centre of Guanajuato and its lines of action.
16.25 – 16.30	Participants' reflections on HUL implementation through interactive poll
16.35 – 16.50	Interactive Discussion and Q&A
16.50 – 17.00	Summary by Rapporteur Ms Maya Ishizawa, heritage specialist, member of ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes

Preliminary Technical Sessions 21 June

10.00 – 11.30	<u>Preliminary Technical Session 4</u> : The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in Europe and North America (English only)
10.00 – 10.03	Opening by Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
10.03 – 10.15	Introduction of issues and questions by Session Chair Ms Erminia Sciacchitano, Italian Ministry of Culture
10.15 – 10.30	Case studies: Austria: City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg: World Heritage as a living organism! and Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg: Historic District: Mülln in dialogue
10.30 – 10: 38	Case study: Durham Castle and Cathedral, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Neighbourhood Plans: supporting a World Heritage Site.
10.40 – 10:48	Case study: Historic Centre of Urbino, Italy: Protecting the cultural and natural legacy of the World Heritage property “Historic Centre of Urbino”. Update of the management plan.
10.50 – 10.55	Participants' reflections on HUL implementation through interactive poll
10.55 – 11.20	Interactive Discussion and Q&A
11:20 – 11.30	Summary by Rapporteur Ms Carola Hein, full professor and Chair, History of Architecture and Urban Planning, Delft University of Technology
12.00 – 13.30	<u>Preliminary Technical Session 5</u> : The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in the Arab States and Europe (simultaneous interpretation English/ French)
12.00 – 12.03	Opening by Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
12.03 – 12.15	Introduction of issues and questions by Session Chair Mr Papa Abdoulaye Sy, Global Lead Urban Development, Islamic Development Bank
12.15 – 12.23	Case study: Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt, France: La prise en compte de la nature dans le Plan de Sauvegarde et de Mise en valeur de Strasbourg (Taking nature into account in the Strasbourg Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan)
12.25 – 12.33	Case study: Archaeological Site of Carthage, Tunisia: La gestion intégrée de la cité- site de Carthage (Integrated conservation of the city-site of Carthage)
12.35 – 12.43	Case study: Historic Cairo, Egypt: Community-centred revitalisation of Souq al-Silah
12.45 – 12.50	Participants' reflections on HUL implementation through interactive poll

12:50 – 13:20	Interactive Discussion and Q&A
13:20 – 13:30	Summary by Rapporteur Ms Imane Bennani, Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat
15:30 – 17:00	<u>Preliminary Technical Session 6</u> : The implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in World Heritage Cities in Europe and North America (simultaneous interpretation English/Spanish)
15:30 – 15:33	Opening by Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
15:33 – 15:45	Introduction of issues and questions by Session Chair Ms GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens, Secretary General, ENCATC
15:45 – 16:53	Case study: Mantua and Sabbioneta, Italy: The case of Mantua and Sabbioneta World Heritage site through the examples of “Pescherie di Giulio Romano” and “Cerchio d’Acqua”
15:55 – 16:03	Case study: University of Coimbra – Alta and Sofia, Portugal: Lettered – literature, territory, tourism and education
15:05 – 16:13	Case study: Historic Centre of San Gimignano, Italy
16:15 – 16:20	Participants’ reflections on HUL implementation through interactive poll
16:20 – 16:50	Interactive Discussion and Q&A
16:50 – 17:00	Summary by Rapporteur Ms Carol Westrik, heritage expert, Netherlands



CONCLUSIONS

Historic cities today

Historic cities are the result of an accumulation of traditions and experiences, shaped by successive generations of people and their cultures. They are characterized by the layering of tangible heritage (like monuments and built structures), intangible elements (like traditions and festivals), natural features and the context of the place. Historic cities have unique and distinguishable identities, springing from a mixture of nature and culture. These unique city characters are ever more important and worthy of protection, as globalization and contemporary urban development make cities increasingly homogenous; culture and heritage are what set historic cities apart. Historic places are important, not only because they have beautiful old buildings but also because they are liveable places for communities reflecting their identity. They are also a repository of accumulated knowledge and experience, offering diverse solutions to effectively respond to local climatic and geographical conditions, to make good use of available natural resources, and to enhance the resilience of places and communities.

A landscape approach is a holistic way to look at a historic area. When we apply a 'landscape' perspective, we do not look at a city from one angle (buildings) or one 'zone' (historic city centre); we look at all the elements of the city – tangible (buildings) and intangible (rituals), visible (public parks) and hidden (underground infrastructure), natural (hills) and human-made (bike paths). A landscape perspective also takes into account activities inside (houses and schools) and between buildings (green spaces, outdoor markets), and how life is celebrated within the city (festivals, ceremonies). Recognizing the broader 'urban context', or 'landscape', allows us to conserve and manage areas more comprehensively. In other words, it helps us to preserve the quality of the human environment, and not just the buildings and facilities (i.e., the 'built environment'). These landscapes possess rich resources that have economic and social significance and make the places unique. They include 'natural resources', 'cultural resources' and 'human resources'.

Rapid urbanization, globalization and climate change are all having a profound effect on historic cities. Today, these cities are struggling to respond to their inhabitants' burgeoning demands for housing and other essential services, while staying competitive in the global markets through internet technology and rushing to mitigate the growing impact of climate-induced disasters. The case studies show the breadth of issues facing the conservation and protection of historic cities and urban heritage all over the world.

The approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation)

The HUL Recommendation advocates a perspective that integrates heritage conservation and management with socio-economic development. Thus, heritage conservation is not in conflict with but rather a resource for achieving the shared goals of sustainable urban development. The HUL Recommendation expands the notion of 'urban conservation' from the physical conservation of monuments and historical areas, to a complex process that helps cities maintain and expand their sense of place and identity, while meeting the needs and challenges of today. The 'HUL approach' is an integrated approach to urban heritage management that recognizes the layering over time, and the interconnections of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, international and local values in cities.

It is also a framework to help make informed, multisectoral decisions on urban development actions that can have a long-lasting major impact on the city's identity. Urban development based on this inclusive approach is supported by inputs, support, expertise and involvement from a large group of stakeholders, including the public sector, the private sector, civil society organizations, urban planners, conservationists, heritage specialists, local and national governments across different sectors, and international organizations, not to mention the inhabitants of the city. This inclusive and integrative approach to heritage management with urban planning must be accompanied by programmes with clear workplans and frameworks, guidance materials, tools, knowledge-exchange opportunities, and capacity building.

The HUL approach applies to urban heritage on the World Heritage List as well as to all cities with heritage and historical layers that makes them unique, and necessitates the protection of their identity. While integrating culture as part of urban development is part of HUL, any city is encouraged to apply the HUL approach regardless of the abundance of perceived cultural assets by urban planners and local governments. In other words, there is no 'disqualifier' to its implementation. HUL begins with the simple questions: 'What about our city is unique and gives it its identity? What about the settlement that has come down from over the decades must be passed on to the next generations to enjoy? What about the city has enabled the communities to survive?' The question extends beyond buildings and built environments, and invites us to reflect on the knowledge and practices of the local communities, the natural environment and diversity that together make up the unique 'identity' of a settlement.

Cultural heritage in this approach is viewed as a resource that enables human-centric, harmonious physical and social transformation in historic urban areas. Contemporary needs of urban development – be it housing or roads – do not need to destroy the integrity and the 'sense of place' of the cities. The HUL approach advocates social inclusion and dialogue to ensure that urban development and protection of historic urban areas are not competing interests, but collaborate towards common goals of sustainable, safe, inclusive, resilient and liveable urban spaces.

People are the best custodians of place, and should be recognized as part of a living city addressing their day-to-day needs. It is important to recognize the dynamics and that the interventions of today will be the heritage of tomorrow. Stories and narratives are the essence of social interaction and communication, highlighting the role of intangible urban heritage and the informalities of urban growth. Demographic transformations and changing lifestyles are affecting the historic centres, and HUL can provide an important approach in addressing change.

There need to be clear messages regarding specific issues, including the role of HUL in linking culture and nature, addressing climate extremes and adopting ecological urbanism. These messages should focus on different audiences, including practitioners and city-shapers and should be strengthened with local co-partnerships. The application of urban acupuncture, connecting spaces, data collection and seeing the HUL Recommendation as an ecosystem approach will strengthen urban management. Within the urban context, the importance of balancing interests and negotiation was highlighted in ensuring equity, making our cities safe, inclusive and resilient. We need new models whereby the HUL approach can provide the cultural and heritage component, linking together documents and guidance for the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, Resilient Cities programme and climate change actions.

The HUL approach requires historic cities to look at complexity and focus on interlinkages beyond planning. Risk management in sites and cities needs to be integrated with heritage conservation, following the HUL Recommendation. Too often, the need for urban development is at odds with conservation of urban heritage; a familiar narrative is that the protection of a monument can clash with a necessary project, such as the development of housing units.

However, implementing the HUL approach, taking stock of the urban heritage values and resources, identifying their potential, and integrating them into urban planning for the historic city, unleashes the potential of historic urban areas to make cities economically prosperous, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and culturally vibrant.

In their interventions, leading global experts on cities and urban heritage identified the following key issues:

- Rapid transformation of cities and demographic changes have deteriorated urban landscapes, putting pressure on maintenance and preservation
- Innovation to build an integrated space and its management should be rooted in urban heritage
- Cities are composite, and we cannot divide the historical and modern landscape; for this reason, the HUL approach is a comprehensive strategy
- Cities are not just groups of buildings, as in the Athens Charter; extending the urban heritage to beyond the urban core, to include the urban fabric and the wider setting, should not limit the freedom to develop and manage
- The power of heritage and the HUL approach is to rethink inequalities in cities, recognizing the culture as an asset to reduce this
- Fissures caused by colonialism and multiple identities, such as colonial and vernacular buildings in the Caribbean
- Need to address climate change and disaster risk reduction

Strategies for sustainable urban futures

Experts, site managers and heritage stakeholders came together to propose a number of strategies for the integration of urban heritage with sustainable urban development.

On planning and governance:

- A focus on heritage can bring better quality outcomes for urban development;
- Integrated spaces where social, economic and environmental dimensions are important are valuable
- Conservation should be based on a comprehensive strategy including sustainable development

On the multiple layers of urban heritage:

- Preserving landscapes not monuments
- The visibility of high-rise buildings must be managed beyond the buffer zone
- Cultural landscapes are created by human and cultural processes and must be safeguarded by human and cultural processes
- The HUL approach extends the notion of urban heritage to include living heritage and community identity
- Living heritage is related to diversity and identity
- The HUL approach provides a basis for strategies for cities, whether World Heritage listed or not
- Comprehensive reconstruction strategies for urban heritage must be based on the HUL Recommendation

On the economic benefits of urban heritage conservation:

- When there are interconnections between heritage and economic activities, there are positive benefits all round
- There is an urgent need for measures and indicators in the African context

On local communities and inclusion:

- Active involvement of artists in public spaces
- Rethink the fabric of the city with the crucial role of the community
- Enhance opportunities for stakeholder dialogue and engagement
- Empower local communities
- Involve communities in discussions with stakeholders with a human-centred approach
- The human-centred approach is key to building consensus
- Community-based organization is key; for instance, in Beirut, civil society defined the role of a comprehensive reconstruction strategy based on HUL
- Participative processes to find effective solutions
- Recognize the power of the heritage to rethink historical inequalities in cities and settlements, and develop strategies to bring about reparation and reduce inequalities
- Integrate young people into heritage conservation programmes, e.g. people-centred social resilience
- Importance of combining bottom-up and top-down approach – each depends on the other to be effectively implemented

On education and learning:

- Educate urban shapers
- Narratives provide a way to help us interact and build social meaning around our heritage
- Share knowledge
- Measure performance
- Story-telling and shared values
- Bridge Indigenous knowledge and technology
- Important to use and transmit embodied knowledge of local communities

On disaster and climate resilience:

- Traditional knowledge of ways to cope with natural hazards and systems of adaptation, focusing on solutions in the urban context
- Building climate resilience using heritage as a catalyst for resilience
- HUL approach for sustainable development to avoid vulnerabilities, not only for cities but also for the larger landscape of the region
- Communities connected with their landscapes can better adapt to disasters
- Build climate resilience into the core of urban planning, so that heritage management is not at odds with climate planning but rather reinforcing it
- Bring data analytics to measure risks and vulnerabilities, as often environmental degradation is the result of a loss of historical connections to the environment
- Build on local knowledge and living heritage to build resilience to disasters

A summary of key strategies for implementing the HUL approach

2011 UNESCO Recommendation on
the Historic Urban Landscape

Governance and planning

Laws and coordination protect urban heritage:

- Ensure legal protection for urban heritage coherent across different scales and sectors
- Establish multisectoral coordination for decision-making on development projects in and around urban heritage sites

Heritage must be a part of plans and planning:

- Integrate heritage management in urban development plans and processes such as city development plans, master plans, and building regulations
- Long-term plans for heritage management are essential before short-term projects

Heritage contributes to resilience plans:

- Integrate urban heritage into the city's disaster risk reduction plans, climate action plans and related regulations

Layering of urban heritage identity

Identify, document and recognize layers of urban heritage:

- Inventory and map urban heritage values and identity from the wider landscape setting to the architectural features and associated living heritage elements

Old buildings and public spaces have character:

- Adaptive re-use and conservation of historical housing fabric and public spaces enhance liveability, mixed-use and diversity, while protecting urban heritage values

Traditional architecture is local identity:

- Continue and revive traditional and local construction materials and techniques as far as possible, with minimal adaptations, to enable contemporary use

Diverse knowledge

Digital technology helps heritage learning:

- Integrate digital technologies for the documentation, education and transmission of urban heritage values, as well as for interpretation centres and community museums
- Bridge Indigenous knowledge and technology

Local knowledge is shared by storytelling

- Visual, oral and textual narratives, as well as rituals, practices and performances help to transmit, enrich and enhance local knowledge

Green and resilient

Green infrastructure is ecological:

- Promote green and low-carbon transport and infrastructure services in and around heritage sites, increased pedestrianization and cycling, mixed-use, renewable energy, waste and water management;

Water and green space are heritage too:

- Revitalize and reinforce connections with historical urban greens spaces, water systems and agriculture in the wider landscape and territory

Heritage enhances resilience:

- Integrate local heritage-based solutions for sustainable development and climate action
- Traditional knowledge of ways to cope with natural hazards and systems of adaptation inform solutions in the urban context
- Build climate resilience with heritage into core of urban planning, so that heritage management is not at odds with climate planning but rather reinforces it.

Inclusive participation

Heritage is for all:

- Provide public access to heritage where possible and encourage continued community use and interpretation

Participation is inclusive:

- Engage all stakeholders, including local communities, women, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups in the management of heritage
- Enhance participation with innovative and digital tools to engage local communities.

Diverse knowledge

Digital technology helps heritage learning:

- Integrate digital technologies for the documentation, education and transmission of urban heritage values, as well as for interpretation centres and community museums
- Bridge Indigenous knowledge and technology

Local knowledge is shared by storytelling

- Visual, oral and textual narratives, as well as rituals, practices and performances help to transmit, enrich and enhance local knowledge

23 June 2021

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of
the UNESCO Recommendation on
the Historic Urban Landscape and
Launch of the HUL Call for Action



Historic Centre of San Gimignano (Italy)
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Summary

On 23 June 2021, a wide range of mayors, government officials, representatives from civil society organizations and UNESCO offices came together to launch the HUL Call for Action for the HUL Recommendation, which aims to renew and widen engagement with HUL principles in World Heritage and historic cities around the world.

The session was preceded by a tutorial video on the HUL Recommendation prepared by the UNESCO World Heritage Cities Programme.

The session was then officially inaugurated by Mr Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. In his speech, Mr Ottone emphasized the importance of historic cities and their heritage and presented the HUL Recommendation's central topics and approach. He underlined the importance of social and sustainable development, as well as cooperation and balance between actors and stakeholders, the essential connection between heritage and housing, and accessible public spaces for all. Citing examples of applications of the HUL Recommendation around the world, he called on those present and others to join the HUL Call for Action.

Next, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director, World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector, gave an overview of the work being done by UNESCO with regard to the HUL Recommendation, including the 2019 survey on HUL, City Lab outcomes, Urban Notebooks and the World Heritage Canopy, the platform for innovative practices and strategies where many of the case studies presented for the HUL Anniversary are showcased.

Mayors, elected officials and other city leaders shared their messages on this special occasion. Their addresses are included as transcripts in this report.



Welcoming remarks

**Mr Ernesto Ottone Ramírez, UNESCO
Assistant Director-General for Culture**

Transcript

Dear mayors from around the world, esteemed panellists, experts and valued partners, ladies and gentlemen connecting from towns and cities from around the world. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 10th anniversary celebration of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and the launch of the HUL Call for Action.

Today, more than half of humanity lives in urban areas, and the number is projected to rise to nearly 70% by 2050. In recent years, particularly in the Global South, many towns have transformed into cities and metropolises. Close to 4,000 new metropolitan areas emerged between [19]75 and 2015, now accounting for one third of all metropolitan cities. We could say that the 21st century is the 'century of cities'. For decades, UNESCO has upheld the importance of cities as rich repositories of history, heritage and identity accumulated over centuries. Recognized for their Outstanding Universal Value, not only to their residents but to all humankind, historic cities make up one-third of World Heritage properties. We also continue to encourage contemporary urban creativity. Since its launch in 2004, over 245 cities have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as cities of crafts, media arts, film, design, astronomy, literature or music.

In 2011, we adopted the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, commonly known as HUL. The HUL approach is a holistic understanding of an area including tangible and intangible elements, visible and hidden infrastructures, natural and artificial features, and also indoor and outdoor human activities. From monuments to festivals and rituals, markets to design and architecture, culture and creativity exist in every aspect of the urban landscape. This comprehensive and inclusive approach allows us to preserve the quality of the human environment and what makes each city unique. HUL proposes a new perspective on cities, one in which socio-economic development and heritage conservation are not conflicting interests, but allies to realize sustainable urban development. It expands the notion of urban conservation from the physical safeguarding of monuments and historical areas to a complex and inclusive process that allows cities to maintain and expand their sense of place and identity without impeding the delivery of essential services. The HUL approach is underpinned by the input, expertise and involvement of a large group of stakeholders, including local and national governments, public and private sector, civil society, urban planners, conservationists and, of course, the inhabitants of the city.

Dear friends, sustainable urban development is a balancing act. Population growth, migration, industrialization and globalization have prompted rapid construction and development, often at odds with the existing social and cultural fabric of communities. The pandemic has revealed the importance of urban planning and management, as cities account for over 90% of COVID-19 cases, as noted in the UN Policy Brief on COVID-19 and

Cities. Urban areas have a responsibility to protect their residents' well-being. According to the UN, cities contribute as much as 70% of the world's gas greenhouse emissions; they also occupy just 2% of the land area. During a meeting with leaders of the C40 City Climate Leadership Group, the UN Secretary-General stressed that cities need to work with national decision-makers to accelerate climate action and invest in sustainable livelihoods and green transport systems. In the face of pressing challenges, culture and heritage are often left behind within the urban development agenda. When heritage is protected, the focus has typically been on monuments and iconic sites, leaving more subtle aspects of historic areas such as houses and public spaces vulnerable to loss or destruction. As a result, local communities can find themselves disconnected from the heritage, as well as the knowledge and practices they embody.

Dear friends, culture and heritage should not be considered as obstacles to city planning, but as catalysts for sustainable urban futures. The HUL approach can enrich the economic and social life of inhabitants through sustainable tourism, invigoration of local commercial activities, attraction of high-end service sectors, high land property values, support for traditional occupations and local building materials, and enhanced community engagement, shared identity and social cohesion. Urban planning which integrates the HUL Recommendation can also contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by enabling improved human environmental activities, productive and sustainable use of urban spaces, promotion of diversity and inclusion and generation of decent and inclusive job opportunities, to name but a few.

Cities have always had an infinite capacity to innovate, renovate and bounce back from crisis. During the two technical meetings that preceded this event, we heard from 20 cities from around the world, diverse yet united in their commitment to innovation and sustainable urban futures. In Valparaíso, Chile, rehabilitation of buildings within the historical centre has resulted in the recovery of community life and commercial activities. In Saint-Louis Island, in Senegal, where many heritage buildings were in a precarious state, a multi-billion-dollar project has been undertaken with a focus on liveability, revitalization of local art sectors and entrepreneurship.

Today, we are launching the UNESCO HUL Call for Action, to further unlock the potential of culture for urban development. I call on all mayors and leaders of all cities and settlements around the world to join the Call through three concrete actions:

1. To raise awareness among local and national actors about the HUL approach and to encourage its implementation.
2. To promote a local consultation process to empower stakeholders, including NGOs and private and public stakeholders, to support our HUL-driven approach to urban development.
3. To develop local heritage strategies based on the HUL approach, and to participate in UNESCO's network and the exchange of good practices.

This commitment is just the beginning. We will be keeping track of implementation and progress made through regular follow-ups, so a breakthrough made by one city is an inspiration for all others.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the mayors and city leaders present here today as well as leading experts and representatives of international organizations for joining us and committing to the HUL Call for Action. I look forward to working with all of you going forward on this important initiative. Thank you so much.

**Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director,
World Heritage Centre, Culture Sector,
UNESCO**

Transcript

The 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, or the HUL Recommendation, calls on UNESCO Member States to integrate conservation and management of cultural heritage in cities and settlements with policies and practices for sustainable urban development.

It applies to all historic cities, not only World Heritage sites. It advocates for a landscape approach – as the ADG just told us – for identifying, conserving and managing historic areas within their broader context, while considering the interrelationships between the physical forms, natural features and social and cultural values.

The HUL Recommendation emphasizes an approach that recognizes heritage as an intricate part of its larger setting and its geographical, historical, social and cultural context. It advocates viewing historic urban areas as a series of layers, and emphasizes the relationships between the built heritage, natural environment and local communities. These layers include the natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, universal and local heritage values present in any city. These heritage values are key for the overall management and development of the city.

Thus, the HUL approach advocates the integration of heritage and conservation with urban development plans and processes in order to manage change to protect heritage values. The 40th General Conference of UNESCO also reaffirmed the importance of the HUL Recommendation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063. The World Heritage General Assembly adopted the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy at UNESCO in 2019, and UNESCO carried out the second Member State Survey on the implementation of the HUL Recommendation.

The survey demonstrated the relevance of the HUL Recommendation, as cities and their heritage continue to face complex global challenges and seek sustainability, inclusion and resilience. They addressed:

- the importance of establishing links between national, federal and local level decision-makers at city and country level;
- the importance of implementing HUL in UNESCO Member States beyond those on the World Heritage City List and recommended reinforcing the implementation of eco-sensitive policies with the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda;
- establishing monitoring mechanisms to support cities in assessing their implementation of HUL;
- collecting and disseminating international good practices and experiences on HUL; and
- supporting localizing the integration of the HUL approach, and integrating tools for impact assessments and the use of digital technologies to reach out to youth and underrepresented groups and the local community.



Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (India).
Author: Jehangir Sorabjee © Abha Narain Lambah Associates

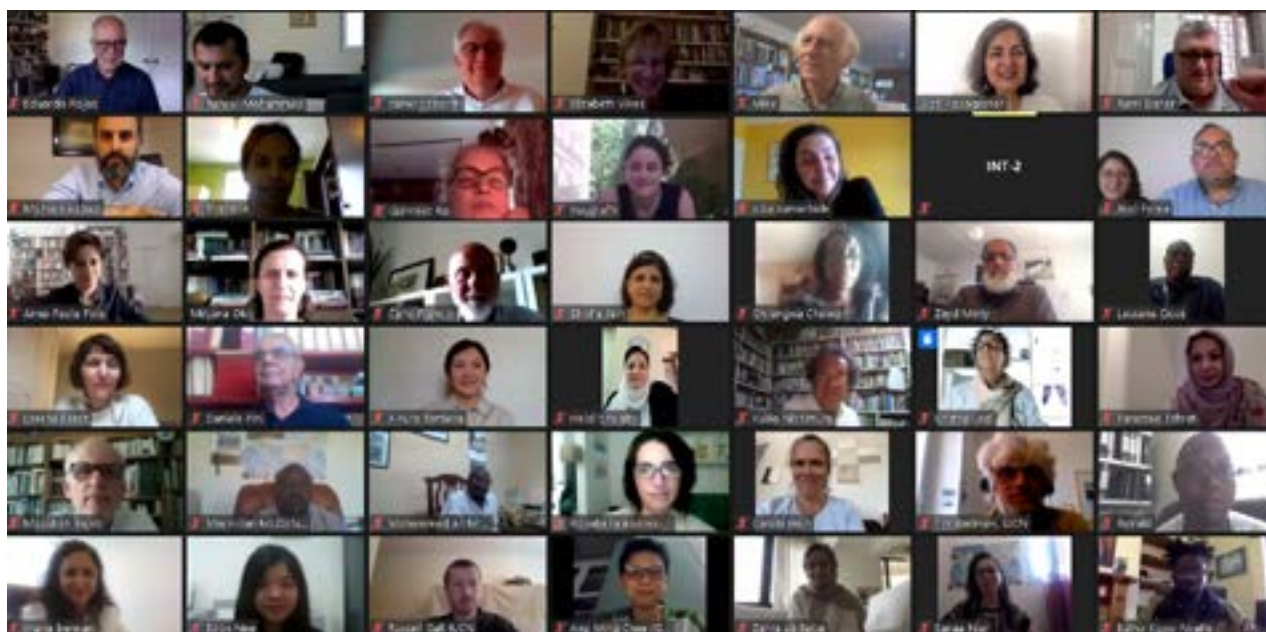
They also noted the importance of ‘connected’ urban heritage protection in the context of disasters, including those related to climate change with rising temperatures and accompanying sea level rise, and the increased risk of climate change-related disasters, which are also on the rise. Over 90% of all urban areas are coastal, putting most cities on Earth at risk of flooding, rising sea levels and powerful storms.

Historic cities are particularly at risk because many of them develop along shorelines or major rivers. Thus, a large number of World Heritage cities – nearly a third of them – are along coasts. Climate change is now among the top threats to cultural and natural heritage sites.

Also relevant here is the new collaborative activity we are launching with the group, using Earth observation to understand and document the impact of climate change on World Heritage cities. Building on the recent work of UNESCO on urban heritage, I would like to look back on two significant projects. The first of these is UNESCO’s first global survey of culture and heritage for sustainable development, launched during the Habitat 3 conference in Quito in October 2016. The resulting publication, *Culture: Urban Future Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development*, provides a framework for urban heritage management in line with the HUL Recommendation. This aims to put heritage at the heart of sustainable urban development.

The second project is the UNESCO-World Bank collaboration on culture in city reconstruction and recovery. Where cities are increasingly bearing the brunt of conflicts, crises and disasters, and themselves are growing in number, magnitude and complexity, the framework for culture in city reconstruction and recovery – known as the CURE framework – is a culture-based approach to the process of city reconstruction and recovery. In recent years, UNESCO has developed indicators to measure the role and contribution of culture to the 2030 Agenda at national and urban levels; these were launched as the Culture 2030 Indicators during the forum of the Ministers of Culture in November 2019, with more than 120 ministers present. These indicators are currently being piloted in some historic cities as well as other cities, and at the national level.

- First, a people-centred recovery
- Second, a green recovery
- Third, an equitable economic recovery
- Fourth, recovering space and infrastructure
- Fifth, a digital-powered recovery



UNESCO's first World Heritage City Lab participants, June 2020

Overall, there was a lot of discussion and a lot of commitment to the idea that what needs to happen on the ground relates to better laws and coordination between different stakeholders; more integration of heritage and urban planning – including people, making heritage for all; participation, including small local businesses to make them more sustainable; and integrating better with businesses and with digital heritage and learning.

I would like to briefly mention a way to keep in touch with the work that we are doing. [Urban Notebooks](#) is a monthly e-newsletter for site managers that includes some examples of innovative practices and is published in English, French and Spanish. I also want to touch on [World Heritage Canopy](#), which is a platform for innovative practices and strategies that link heritage protection with sustainable development, including the implementation of the HUL Recommendation.

It just remains for me to say that we really are delighted with all of this, and we ask you to join the UNESCO network for HUL and respond to the HUL Call for Action. You can go to the link [here](#) to sign up for the three actions, as outlined by the ADG. Thank you very much.

Messages from city leaders

Mr Nadiem Anwar Makarim, Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia

Transcript

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, *as-salāmu ‘alaykum*.

Indonesia is a country with one of the highest rates of urbanization in the world – 56.7% of the population live in cities. This number is projected to rise to 66.6% in the next 15 years. Many cities in Indonesia have fascinating characteristics, with elements of cross-cultural interaction, very well-preserved local traditions and at the same time a real demand and drive for modernization. On the other hand, we are also dealing with several global issues, from climate change and mass tourism, not to mention the current COVID-19 pandemic. By considering the existing challenges and population growth, we need to find a new perspective and approach to protect our heritage cities.

The Historic Urban Landscape approach will help Indonesia preserve the physical and human environment of the country's historical cities, with all their tangible and intangible qualities, by taking into account the existing environment, heritage diversity and environmental factors. The approach of the Historic Urban Landscape will increase the sustainability of city planning, not just to become the world's next most liveable city but a city that has its own unique characteristics, charm and a long line of tradition that is inherited from one generation to another. This objective would then require a multi-stakeholder collaboration among city development stakeholders, from public to private, and also NGOs. Exchanges on good practices regarding other cities' approaches within the UNESCO network will support a Historic Urban Landscape-driven urban development: this is the purpose of our gathering today.

In this regard, the 10th Anniversary of HUL is the right moment to start our efforts to develop sustainable cities for future generations together. Let's build better cities for a better world for all the generations to come. Thank you.



Village in Bali, Indonesia © Bart Speelman, [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

**Mr Daniel Maloney,
Mayor of Ballarat (Australia)**

Transcript

Thank you to my fellow mayors, distinguished guests. Ladies and gentlemen, it's my absolute pleasure to be joining you from my wonderful city of Ballarat in Australia to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Historic Urban Landscape approach.

Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge the traditional Australian Aboriginal custodians of the land that's now known as Ballarat and recognize their continuing connection to the land and the waterways. I pay respects to their elders, past, present, emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

My local community is passionate about Ballarat. We're one of the world's most historically significant and intact nineteenth-century gold rush cities. However, our city is changing, and how we retain the things we love most is one of our foremost challenges. In 2013, we joined the worldwide pilot to implement the HUL approach and build a strong foundation for sustainable development.

But we're no longer piloting it: it's now being implemented, and it's been transformative – it underpins our city's strategic vision. It shapes our engagement processes and is embedded in our planning, and it informs our actions. We see a future where we celebrate our city's unique identity, drawing on all the things that set us apart – our people, our heritage, our culture and our drive for innovation – where we're actively shaping the place we want to be where we open our minds to how we can better bring our beautiful historic city to life.

Ballarat sought and was designated a UNESCO Creative City of craft and folk art in 2019. That designation focuses on the development of a resilient and sustainable creative sector because the future of our city is in the spark of creative ideas. It's also focused the city's attention on walking alongside our nation's first peoples and supporting them in retracing the Aboriginal Australian heritage of craft skills, which have been lost, to fully recognize our heritage, and in partnership with 12 other local governments in our region, we're leading the charge to have our city and our region inscribed on the World Heritage List. Our research shows this region, which covers nearly 40,000 km², to be the most extensive coherent and best surviving gold rush landscape anywhere in the world.

Like many cities around the world, the Ballarat community has told us they want our city to preserve the past to protect our heritage streetscapes, to respect our culturally significant land and waterways, and to celebrate our Aboriginal and colonial stories.

However, our community also wants to live in a city with thriving employment and economic opportunities. This means we're working to both strengthen our heritage tourism and protection of key heritage assets while also developing a diverse and strong economy through health, education, manufacturing and professional services. Indeed, Ballarat is still a gold rush city and gold is still mined today beneath our streets. The gold

of the future is in the ongoing development of our renewable energy sector, circular economy and sustainability initiatives. The HUL approach provides the framework for a city like Ballarat to always respect and protect our heritage while providing new economic opportunities in appropriate areas.

I sincerely wish to congratulate and thank UNESCO and all involved on reaching this significant milestone, and as a leading city for the HUL approach. We're proud to support the HUL Recommendation and HUL Call for Action.

On behalf of the people of Ballarat and Australia, we send our best wishes and thoughts to everyone during these very challenging times. When the time is right and global tourism resumes, hopefully in 2022, we look forward to welcoming you back to our city and to our country. I wish you all the very best for the remainder of this celebration.



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Panorama of Ballarat from Black Hill © Blatch, [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

**Mr Siegfried Nagl,
Mayor of the City of Graz (Austria)**

Transcript

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to extend a very warm welcome from Graz. As a Human Rights City, a City of Design and a World Heritage Site, we are closely connected. A city like Graz, which is medium-sized by European standards, is fully aware of the potential of the three middle letters in UNESCO – ‘E’ for education, ‘S’ for science and ‘C’ for culture – for future oriented urban development. Ten years of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape have strengthened my conviction as mayor (which in the last 10 years has been the fastest growing metropolitan region in Austria) that we must treat our first-class city and its inhabitants in a resource-friendly manner.

The preservation of Graz's precious historic centre has been a focal point of urban life for decades. The historic centre is an anchor and identity marker for us, the residents of Graz, and is therefore a constant concern. For decades, the people of Graz have distinguished themselves by their great commitment to the preservation of the architectural heritage without standing in the way of new development, which is inherent in a desirable and flourishing city.

The urban habitat, in parallel with the development of residential and recreational spaces, has seen enormous progress in Graz over the past ten years and the Graz Historic Centre Protection Act, which has safeguarded our architectural heritage and historic centre since 1974, is the most important tool in the preservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape helping to guide our actions. In addition, the city of Graz has taken active steps to put in place measures against climate change, and to implement new ecological standards to make the city a living space fit for the future. Graz has established a climate protection advisory board, and specially earmarked funds have been made available to promote climate protection projects. These projects are selected based on their balanced carbon footprint and increased sustainability, and there are already emerging signs of this in the cityscape.

The social component of involving citizens is also a major concern for us, which is why we have separate department to take care of this, and to ensure that the high-quality development of our habitats serves everyone. This cooperation helps in the preservation of the historical architecture while at the same time ensuring the sensitive and ecologically sustainable development of the city.

Graz has been able to secure its high standards of living, and it is in this spirit that it makes its contribution in terms of UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. I hope that the conference participants will enjoy many interesting contributions and stimulating discussions.

All the best, and thank you.

**Mr Chen Jining,
Mayor of Beijing (China)**

Transcript

Honourable Mr Ramirez, Ms Hosagrahar, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and dear friends. On behalf of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, I would like to thank the organizer for inviting me to attend this event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

The Recommendation advocates integrating conservation of heritage into the wider goals of urban development and shifting the focus of urban heritage protection from the conservation of architectural monuments to the wider framework of comprehensive urban economic and social development, thus providing a brand-new perspective for urban development.

Since its publication ten years ago, the Recommendation has provided important guidance for protecting the historic urban landscape and achieving sustainable development, and has been well-received by cities around the world, including Beijing.

Beijing has a long history and a splendid cultural heritage. Its 3,000 years as a city and 800 years as the capital of China have left a rich legacy of cultural relics. It boasts both ancient Chinese imperial architecture with unique characteristics and a well-established culture, embedded in the lives of its citizens. Together, these precious assets constitute the unique historic urban landscape of Beijing.

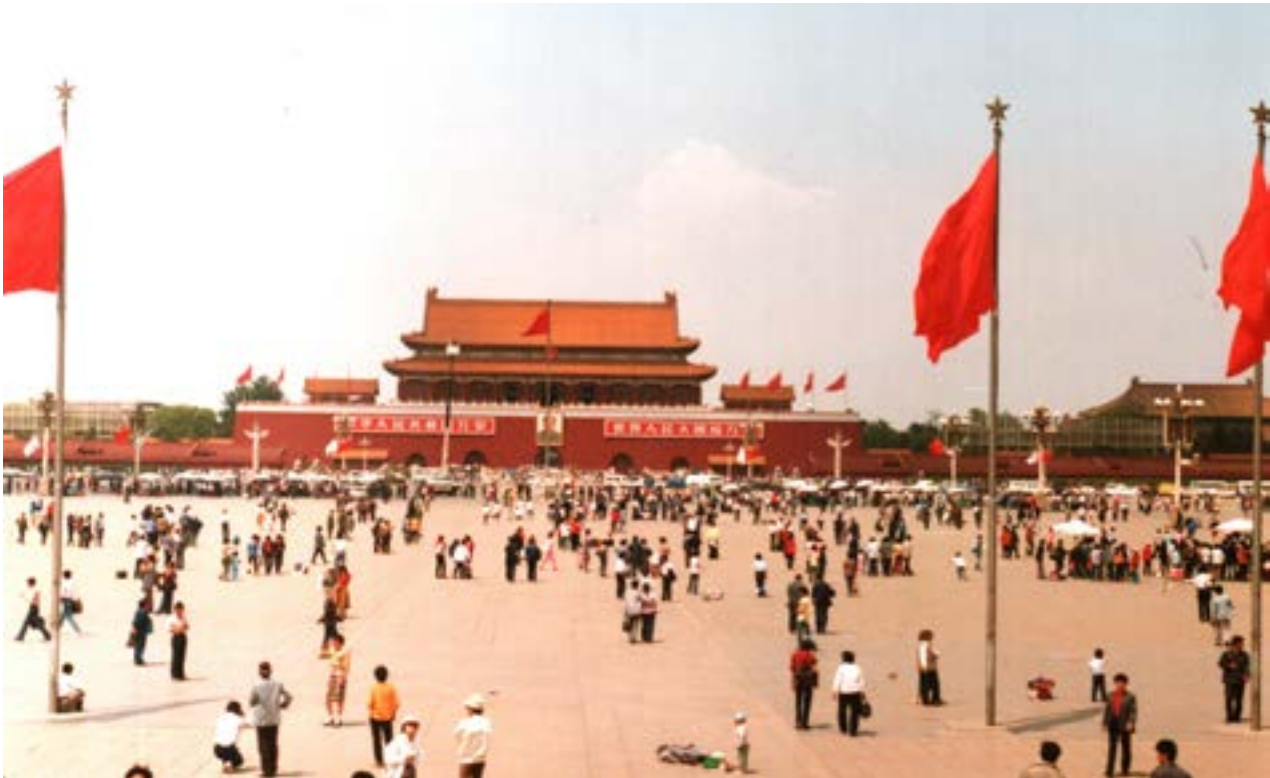
With the acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, as well as unpredictable climate and environmental changes, the historic urban landscape is facing severe challenges.

How to protect and inherit the historic urban landscape has become an important issue for us. With sustainable development in mind, we are committed to protecting the integrity of the historic urban landscape, conserving the historical and cultural sites within it by formulating laws and protecting urban cultural heritage in urban development by integrating heritage conservation into the city's development plan.

We are people-oriented and committed to making Beijing more convenient and liveable for its citizens. We will capitalize on the historic urban landscape in a science-based way, while making sure it is well-protected to carry out urban renewal in an orderly manner, improve and upgrade housing, infrastructure and the environment in older urban areas, and create more public space for the community.

We place great importance on cultural diversity and are committed to promoting the integrated development of urban tradition and modernity for tangible and intangible culture.

While protecting the landscape, we not only consider the historical characteristics of buildings in different streets and regions, but also respect the cultural traditions and living habits of the local communities and learn from best international practices for



Tiananmen Square © Derzsi Elekes Andor, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/), via Wikimedia Commons

promoting the integrated development of modern culture and historical landscape, so that historical culture and modern civilization can complement and mutually reinforce each other in Beijing.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, currently the Beijing Central Axis application for World Cultural Heritage status is well underway. The central axis is the soul and backbone of Beijing as a renowned historical and cultural city. It represents the architectural form and planning pattern of the city and has witnessed the changes of landscape and society in China for several generations. It is a precious piece of cultural heritage in the history of urban development and architecture.

The rich historical and cultural connotations carried by the Beijing Central Axis are consistent with the ideas advocated in the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

I hope that I will have the opportunity to share and discuss with you the philosophy, experience and practices contained in our application, so that we can better protect the Central Axis.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, UNESCO has played an important role in the protection of the historic urban landscape. This event will definitely win greater popular support for the protection of the historic urban landscape. Beijing will actively cooperate with UNESCO and other cities around the world, and make unremitting efforts to protect, manage and transmit the common heritage of humankind to future generations.

Lastly, I wish this event every success.

Thank you.

**Ms Karen Taïeb, Deputy Mayor for
Heritage, the History of Paris and
Relations with Religions, Paris (France)**

*(Due to a poor quality of sound, Ms Taïeb's speech could not be transcribed verbatim.
The following text is a summary of her speech)*

I am delighted to participate in the 10th Anniversary of the HUL Recommendation. Here we are next to the river Seine, one of the most beautiful parts of the Parisian landscape, which is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage property.

It is important to talk about this after the transformation of the banks of the Seine River into a car-free pedestrian zone. We reclaimed this important area for the Parisians and those in love with this city, who now can freely enjoy the banks of the Seine and the Parisian architecture.

It was necessary to talk about this topic, as we are in a time when the environment has become a hot topic to discuss. The pedestrianization of the river banks was a very important project which shows this willingness to reclaim the city, to take part into the reducing of the temperature and to enjoy this environment. This is the reason why for us this reclaiming is an essential environmental step.



Paris, Banks of the Seine (France) © Editions Gelbart

**Mr Dario Nardella,
Mayor of Florence (Italy)**

Transcript

Good morning, I am Dario Nardella, Mayor of the City of Florence. I wanted to thank UNESCO for considering and including Florence in this important celebration of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

The value of landscape is of great significance in the management and the interpretation of our city. In fact, the city and its territory are frequently associated with a vision that emphasizes the quality of the surrounding environment, which includes the hills and the countryside. This fundamental link is also cited in the statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Historic Centre of Florence, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1982. The context in which the historic city is located, besides providing a perfect scenic backdrop, helps to maintain its characteristics and contributes significantly to the value of the World Heritage Site.

In 2015, with the newly-approved extension of the World Heritage site's buffer zone, reflected in the local urban and cultural plans, we took the first steps towards the protection and enhancement of the city landscape. We had to start thinking about Florence not only as a mere ensemble of historic buildings, but at a more fluid metropolitan level, going beyond formal and rigid boundaries.

The concepts of stratification, a multidisciplinary approach, the relationship between history and contemporary life, the reading of urban spaces in their various connotations, the inclusion of social, economic and cultural practices, awareness of cultural and social dynamics, and sustainability – all these principles become the building blocks for a new, more systematic vision of a city that can coexist with the continuous transformation of urban landscapes.

We now need to envisage a new approach for the future management and protection of the human environment, in response to the terrible consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is why Florence will remain committed to implementing the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, by considering the urban area as an integral part of the context and surrounding landscape. The aim is to promote a sustainable relationship between the artificial urban and the natural landscape, in order to balance local economic, environmental and cultural development throughout the territory.

The metropolitan City of Florence will join the HUL Call for Action to raise awareness about the Recommendation and to accelerate inclusive urban and heritage management through the Historic Urban Landscape approach. Thank you very much.

**Mr Alejandro Navarro,
Mayor of Guanajuato (Mexico)**

Transcript

Good afternoon. My name is Alejandro Navarro, I'm the Mayor of Guanajuato and head of Mexico's World Heritage Cities National Association. Thank you for the invitation to take part in this event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the HUL Recommendation of 2011.

Guanajuato has a lot of cultural wealth, full of traditions, customs, flavours, colours and folklore, and it's a city with a happy spirit. It is a major cultural destination for visitors. It underwent a huge boom between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries because of its mining activities, which can be seen in its buildings: private homes, religious buildings, museums, libraries, offices and schools, which together make up the Outstanding Universal Value that was recognized by the World Heritage Centre, which inscribed the historic town of Guanajuato and its adjacent mines on the list in 1988.

This ensemble of buildings and its mining tradition and vast history has formed our identity in Guanajuato. Therefore, in 2018, the municipality drafted a management plan and set up its management unit to oversee the city's heritage. This became operational in 2020 and the historical centre of Guanajuato management plan became effective, issuing guidelines regarding the historic centre of the town. It also connects government entities and we ran a competition for young people called 'Redesign your City', which attracted thousands of entries.

Thank you very much and greetings from Guanajuato to one and all.



Mr José María Bellido,
Mayor of Cordoba (Spain)

Transcript

It is an honor and a pleasure to join you to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the UNESCO HUL Recommendation. I am very pleased with doing this as the Mayor of Cordoba. Our city is a fruit of our past, which is a past of many different civilizations, a dialogue between cultures and an exchange of knowledge. This has left Cordoba with a real treasure, a rich historical and cultural heritage.

Those of us who live in Cordoba are very pleased as well to be able to look after this heritage. We believe that we have got to value and guard this legacy. We are doing this carefully, with a constant concerted efforts with an advisory party on the historical town and a Planning Department specialized in this.

We believe that the Old Town has got to be a lively part of the city, that has to continue developing and to be alive. We have for example a very important “Fiesta de los patios”, which is festival where all the courtyards of the city open. This is part of our way of life and has been developed over centuries and years. An unusual fact also of the situation that, in Cordoba, we are near the source of the Guadalquivir river, which is a part of the World Heritage property and integrated fully into the historic urban landscape.



Author: José Puy © Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España. Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte

Panel 1 – ‘Towards crisis-ready urban heritage’



Grand-Bassam © Singoloua225,
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The first panel discussion was convened on the topic of ‘crisis-ready urban heritage’, reflecting both the short-term crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and the longer crises cities face in terms of climate change and other issues.

The panellists foregrounded the dual nature of cities as places of innovation and preservation, future and tradition, noting the importance of protecting culture and architectural values, and renewed emphasis on supporting intangible culture – events and gatherings – in ways that could include and support residents, restaurateurs, artisans and other local activities.

The central roles of natural heritage and sustainable approaches to tourism were also key. In some cities, the crisis pre-dates the pandemic, and master plans incorporating the HUL approach can help address everything from city management to climate challenges. Plans for the latter are crucial in many other cities, especially when addressing the impact on housing and infrastructure vulnerable to heat, water level rise and growing populations.

Round 2 of Panel 1 focused specifically on climate challenges. Panellists were asked ‘How can heritage contribute to solutions based on new technologies that also rely on local traditions in building techniques and crafts’?

While highlighting the need to balance heritage, social issues and the natural environment with respect to the needs of present and future generations, panellists noted that many World Heritage and historic cities face challenges specific to their location by the sea and other waterways. This creates pressing issues for both heritage and people, and urban planning policies need to integrate both HUL and Agenda 2030 to properly address them.

This means using inclusive tools for progress and analytic tools for planning future projects and evaluating past ones, and forging partnerships with institutions to study traditional architecture and its use in both past and future building restoration and practices. Specifically, creating additional green areas to improve locals’ livelihoods and develop a more sustainable touristic experience need to be included in management master plans. Resources for renovation need to be oriented towards reutilization and adaptation to future needs.

“Given the changes caused by the pandemic, what is the role of historic cities and heritage in building resilience?”

Grand-Bassam (Côte d’Ivoire) – Mr Jean Louis Moulot, Mayor

Transcript

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this panel discussion.

Grand-Bassam is in the south-east of Côte d’Ivoire. Our urban environment has been preserved intact, attracting universal interest not only in our iconic architecture and the way in which the structures have stood the test of time, but also in our history and landscape, and in the economic legacy derived from the period of peacetime in our country.

So, to return to the question for our panel, I think that, sadly, our urban heritage in Grand-Bassam has indeed been affected by the greatest health crisis this century. This has had an economic impact, and has led to a significant drop in tourism – Grand-Bassam is one of the top coastal resorts in Côte d’Ivoire. We welcome the largest numbers of tourists at weekends, so we recognized the need for a new plan to relaunch the tourist industry with additional measures to address the health risks. We have also provided aid for the tourist trade at the local level.

Our hotels, arts sector and restaurants have all needed help, as the urban landscape has been affected by some of the government measures that were introduced in response to the health crisis. For example, we were no longer allowed to travel from one area to another; many of our treasures – our heritage – have been left in a poor state as a result.

Grand-Bassam, as I said, is a large tourist resort and we need to provide services in the urban area to maintain the landscape and strengthen our resilience. The crisis has shown us that we need to improve living standards within the urban framework.



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Francophonie du Côte d'Ivoire



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Ahmedabad (India) – Mr Mukesh Kumar, Municipal Commissioner

Transcript

Good afternoon. Ahmedabad is one of the recent additions to the World Heritage List, in 2017. The historic city was planned in the 14th century and was chosen as a strategic site in the middle of the Gujarat Kingdom. The new, centrally located capital had to be both safe and strong for the different communities who were invited to live there. It was chosen very carefully – on the eastern bank of Sabarmati River, at a level which is higher than the riverbed. The river bends away from the location towards the south-west corner of the site, which would drain the surface water during the monsoon.

In modern cities across the world right now, climate change is the biggest challenge of our time to the holistic idea of traditional urban settlements. This walled street area, which is a city living area, is much more complex than other urban management areas, and the threats are more acute, as climate change indicators are directly connected to many aspects of natural materials.

I would like to mention the government of Gujarat, which is one of the few governments in India to have set up a dedicated climate change department. As a local body, we work very closely with the government of Ujjain and the department, in terms of obtaining information and assistance on climate change issues. In the City of Ahmedabad, we learn not only from technology but also from generations of local knowledge.

Ahmedabad City is a planned settlement with a hierarchy of living environments and narrow street, but also lots of community spaces, which represent local wisdom and the sense of strong community bonding. The street trees keep the public realm shaded on hot sunny days, instantly transformed into 'north and south', which would be sheltered for most of the day. People can move around freely without feeling the impact of the sun. This is also true of the internal courtyards, which keep fresh air circulating around the houses – even today, the average traditional house is around two to three degrees cooler than a modern apartment.

Access to mobility and global connectivity has made the pace of daily life faster than ever. The dynamics of change over the last decade were acknowledged in 2011. Ahmedabad had been looking at the Recommendation from 2010, when it was considering World Heritage nomination, and since then we have been actively using the Recommendation in our preparations and in other current heritage management plans.



Beirut. Author: Yoniw. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Beirut (Lebanon) – Ms Matilda Khoury, Councillor to the Mayor of Beirut City

Transcript

Thank you, good afternoon, and warm greetings from the City of Beirut. Today, I will be representing both my city and our mayor, unable to attend due to unforeseen reasons.

The topic for this panel is ‘crisis-ready urban heritage’ – as most of you will know, Beirut is not only a millennial city, infused with immense cultural and natural heritage, but also a city of vast potential. Unfortunately, as many of you also know, Beirut is a city which has undergone a series of immense crises over the past 50 years. Disaster has followed disaster, leaving the whole city and its institutions fragile, with a weakened economy. This fragility extends to some of its historic natural and urban landscapes, and to address this, the City of Beirut embarked a few years ago on the preparation of a comprehensive urban resilience master plan. This plan, which is still in completion, is designed to prepare the city for a wide range of risks and hazards, from the ever-present danger of earthquakes to tsunamis and climate change, or other emergencies such as health pandemics and socio-economic crises.

Unfortunately, the situation in Beirut has been so severe since 2019 that the current crisis we are facing is beyond the scope of any master plan. This is a ‘compounded’ crisis, and Beirut is facing its darkest hour. Nevertheless, we remain positive, as our city has immense potential.

We are still hoping that part of our resilience master plan could go on to protect our cultural urban heritage, our natural heritage, and make it an integral part of the city.

The last reference I made was to the explosion which happened less than a year ago, in August 2020, destroying much of the historic fabric of the city. Nonetheless, it was immensely heart-warming to hear that the people stepped in to help because of their attachment to their cultural heritage, although the authorities reacted less swiftly to this terrible tragedy. People have taken the lead in restoring the cultural urban heritage of Beirut, with the help of many other local actors, some local, and institutions at various levels.

It is a mixed feeling. Beirut is always a mixed feeling, and we are always in-between. It is a city of immense beauty, but at the same time a city of immense sadness and tragedy. Words fail me at the moment, thank you for the opportunity to present my city today.



Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)
© Scott.wheeler, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) – Mr Solomon Mguni, Mayor

Transcript

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Bulawayo is the second largest city in Zimbabwe and is rightly considered as the heritage stronghold of the country. Modern Bulawayo is built on multiple layers of history and heritage. Archaeological studies show that the land around the city has been inhabited by humankind for more than 15,000 years – the wide distribution of rock art sites in suburbs bear testimony to this. While innovation in architecture is important, the preservation and restoration of all the buildings and monuments reflect our history, habits and traditions.

The city of Bulawayo understands the importance of maintaining its historic architectural designs; it is imperative to tap into the potential of culture and arts in the heritage sector to derive economic value. The city also promotes and supports the creative intercultural industries, as evidenced by the various art festivals held at different times in the year. This includes the Ibumba International Festival and the Bulawayo Arts Festival, which is held from 2–5 June each year.

By holding arts festivals, Bulawayo aims to engage the meaningful participation of the people and the nation in the cultural life of the city, and to showcase its proud heritage, rich diversity, artisans, creative nature and resilience. It seeks to tell the story of the history of the city, ensuring that through the narrative, the city's pride, heritage and culture are passed on to future generations.

Sustainability calls for stakeholder engagement. In partnerships, the stakeholder approach is integral to saving the heritage of the city. The Royal City Council works with various partners in the ongoing historic tourism programme, which also includes the urban heritage corridor. This highlights the importance of open heritage for cultural tourism within the framework of the implementation of UNESCO's Sustainable Cultural Tourism Strategy.

The Inner City Tourism Programme showcases and packages the city's heritage, historical buildings and cultural spaces, as well as monuments and landmarks. The various heritage-related events and programmes in the city are in line with the UNESCO 2011 Recommendations on the Historical Urban Landscape, Agenda 2021 – Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Zimbabwe's National Development Strategy 1. Since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, international tourism has been badly affected. However, local cultural tourism is promoted within the city.

As we commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, it is worth noting that heritage was long absent from the mainstream Sustainable Development debate, despite its cultural importance for societies and its great socio-economic potential. As a city, we invite and call upon all cities and towns to join the current HUL Call for Action to raise awareness of the historic urban landscape.



Panel discussion 2 – ‘Empowering local communities for a human-centred urban future’

Querétaro (Mexico) © M & G Therin Weise

Panel 2 began with the question ‘In what way have your cities and policies addressed the pandemic and the shift in focus from tourism to local community and livelihoods?’

The panellists all highlighted the major impact of reduced tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For Gorée, 90% of economic activity is directly or indirectly related to tourism, and the pandemic forced a change of focus to natural tourism and local activities to empower people to be more resilient, and a renewed fight against environmental damage to protect the island via a conservation project.

In Abomey, the pandemic severely reduced tourist numbers in the city centre (45,000 in 2019 compared to 10,000 in 2020). To help overcome this deficit, the city followed Article 22 of the HUL approach : ‘Conservation of the urban heritage should be integrated into general policy planning and practices and those related to the broader urban context. Policies should provide mechanisms for balancing conservation and sustainability in the short and long terms’.

The Dubrovnik economy is highly dependent on tourism, and efforts have been made to improve the quality of the tourist experience through smart and digital solutions, reduced car traffic and improved sustainability. Fortunately, the historic heritage is well maintained and in excellent condition, and it is now important to find the right post-pandemic balance between tourism and local needs.

Similarly, Querétaro saw a 70% drop in tourism from 2018 to 2020 with a massive loss in income. Tourism is now one of many pillars supporting a recovery that also promotes the value of heritage within local communities as part of a broader economic recovery plan, with a new emphasis on cultural activities.

'In what way have your cities and policies addressed the pandemic and the shift in focus from tourism to local community and livelihoods?'

During the second half, the discussion, initiated by Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, focused on how COVID-19 highlighted the need to put a special focus on the liveability of city centres, and the question of how heritage can contribute to the well-being of local communities.

Panellists noted the need to develop management plans that properly include the local population in the urban planning process, and agreed that a combination of instruments and tools, including HUL and Agenda 2030, were able to facilitate this process. Encouraging and including residential populations in the centre stimulates cultural activities and social engagement, which in turn raises awareness and the interest of private stakeholders in heritage and its protection, helping people take ownership of the space.

In other cases, management plans were already in place but needed to be adapted to protect and improve the World Heritage values during this time. This involved using various tools from HUL – in this case, the City Dialogues and Dubrovnik Network – for further education, relationships between public action and private sector, actions to limit the negative impact on heritage and natural environment, implementation of technical and ecological solutions, social actions on income, housing and risk management (the area being deeply affected by earthquakes).

Other panellists said that COVID-19 re-emphasized the importance of quality of life and the general well-being of residents, both during the pandemic and in the future. Social cohesion and cultural engagement in urban development were recognized as being the heart of tourist activity and just as important. Additional measures discussed included the need to improve site protections using new technologies and IT to promote and better implement HUL in a strategic manner. This includes the evaluation of the conservation policy; setting up training sessions for heritage professionals, NGOs and institutions; participative policy action; and multi-channel communication strategies.



Royal Palaces of Abomey © UNESCO

Abomey (Benin) - Mr Kossi Antoine Louis Djedou, Mayor

Transcript

Mr Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, my dear colleagues from around the world, good afternoon. Before I begin, let me thank you personally and on behalf of the municipality of Abomey for the invitation to participate in the 10th anniversary event of the HUL Recommendation.

I just wanted to say a few words about Abomey, which is on the central plateau – so just two hours' drive from the international airport. It's the historic capital of Benin, and is part of the former kingdom that dates back to 1600. We have royal palace sites which were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 1985.

In our case, our tourist sector was severely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we had to adapt, as the historic centre normally has a vibrant tourist scene. In the central zone, for example, there were around 40,000 tourists in 2019, but just under 10,000 in 2020, so as you can imagine, the socio-economic and political consequences were dire, and many livelihoods were threatened. The drop in income was also significant, and this meant that there was a reduction in the average household income. On a political level, decisions such as the closure of our borders, lockdowns and the requirement for everybody to wear a mask and respect social distancing measures had a real impact on everyday life.

As stipulated in Article 22 of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, safeguarding of the urban heritage needs to be integrated into urban planning and overall urban practices, as well as the wider urban context – policies must reconcile preservation on the one hand with the long-term sustainability of the greater urban landscape on the other. This means that we need to integrate the work of heritage specialists with our own tourism and social interests. Therefore, states have a major role to play when it comes to implementing vaccination plans for tourists in the future, ensuring that we can overcome the pandemic and allow our tourism sector to recover. It's also important to support the population by ensuring that education can continue, while respecting social distancing measures.



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Dubrovnik (Croatia) - Ms Jelka Tepšić, Deputy Mayor

Transcript

Thank you very much, and on behalf of Dubrovnik's mayor Mr Mato Franković, who was unfortunately unable to participate today, I extend warm greetings and congratulations on this important anniversary. The Recommendation is really important for the city of Dubrovnik.

Regarding the first question, I should stress that Dubrovnik was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List back in 1979. That's really a long time ago and we are very proud of the fact that we were only the second city in Europe, just after Krakow, to be protected by the listing. At the same time, the city of Dubrovnik is heavily financially dependent on tourism, since more than 80% of our economy is directly related to tourism, with the remainder being indirectly related.

In 2019, we had over 1.4 million tourist arrivals and more than 4.3 million overnights. In addition to these, we had some 700,000 visitors from cruise ships. Tourism changes living conditions in many ways, some positive and some negative.

When we took over responsibility for governing this city back in 2017, we were determined to turn Dubrovnik into a leader in sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean area. So, we started to develop a strategic programme called 'Respect the City', which centres around our inhabitants and, of course, tourists, because we want them to have a high quality experience in our city.

We began to tackle the difficult challenges facing us through different ways of relieving traffic congestion, and by implementing smart solutions. After a relatively short period

of time, we began to notice significant changes, even by 2018, and in 2019 we received good approval ratings for our efforts in sustainability. As I mentioned earlier, we would like to have a higher tourist satisfaction rate and a better quality of life for our citizens.

The global crisis is a very difficult time for Dubrovnik, as it is for the whole world. We were left almost completely cut off from our main source of income, and although some recovery was noted in the summer of 2020 with regard to tourism, the overall city budget suffered badly. However, despite this situation and the fact that our main income depends on tourist activity, we never lost sight of the goals we had set ourselves, and the need to develop the city in the right direction, which meant that we used the crisis as a new beginning, and also as a time to implement the biggest changes.

So, on the subject of sustainable city restoration activity, and the protection of heritage – these are interdependent. The cultural heritage of the 'brand new keys' is in very good – I would say 'excellent' – hands, and we are continuously investing in restoring the richness of our heritage. Cooperation is certainly one of the advantages for cities under UNESCO protection, as they are probably guaranteed to be rebuilt sooner than others, so heritage for us at the moment is a very important word; and it is even more beautiful without the crowds.

We believe that we will find the right path to continue to develop and better manage our city in the future, hoping not to compromise on quality because of the crisis, something that we have managed quite well in Croatia. It's a green zone now, and we are expecting tourism to recover well in the months to come.



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© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

Querétaro (Mexico) - Mr Miguel Antonio Parrodi Espinosa, Mayor

Transcript

Good afternoon and greetings to the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre. I would also like to thank Mr Genaro Montes Díaz, Secretary of Sustainable Development of the municipality of Querétaro, architect Mr José Gustavo Botello Montes, general director of the Municipal Planning Institute, and Mr Joel Perea Quiroz, coordinator of the World Heritage site of the municipality of Querétaro board, who are here with me.

We saw a 70% drop in visitors to Querétaro from 2018 to 2020 because of the pandemic. This had an important economic impact. In December 2019, our income was 500 million pesos, and there were 100,000 visitors. During the pandemic, in December 2020, our income was just 200 million pesos, and there were 40,000 tourists. This reduction in visitors affected all sectors linked to tourism, whether cultural, recreational or business, and also all the associated businesses like hotels, restaurants, businesses, souvenir shops, and other services that tourists use. The situation has improved, and we are expecting an income of 400 million pesos this year and increasing numbers of visitors.

The collaboration between Mexican World Heritage Cities was essential to advance the economic recovery. This allowed us to promote the cities within nearby regions, promoting national tourism, as the number of international arrivals has been drastically reduced. We have done this by following all precautionary measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19, such as establishing health controls, ensuring physical distance and controlling occupation rates for private and public spaces.

Our current goal is to develop the tourism offer for domestic tourists, support the local economy, attract visitors from nearby regions, with an emphasis on cultural activities. For instance, the Maxei Festival will take place from 19–25 July to celebrate the 490th anniversary of the foundation of Santiago de Querétaro. In September, the Hay Festival will take place in our city, one of the most important international events for editorial, art and culture. In this 6th edition, we will work with other cities from around the world to enrich the programme and ensure compliance with health measures. Additionally, we have decided to hold some of the programme online, which will lead to a larger international and national engagement.

In Querétaro, we believe that tourism is one of the pillars of the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. This economic reactivation is linked to the livelihoods of thousands of families who depend the tourist sector, based on the culture and heritage of the city. The cultural heritage of our city is the heart of our tourism and recreation sectors. We aim to promote domestic and international tourism linked to the living culture of the city and its legacy as a World Heritage site.



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Gorée (Senegal) - Mr Augustin Senghor, Mayor

Transcript

Thank you very much. I'm very pleased to be able to participate in this event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO HUL Recommendation. The 10th anniversary of HUL is an important celebration, and I am delighted to be a member of the panel.

I wanted to look at how local communities could be empowered through a human-centred urban future and I'm very pleased to be able to respond to the two questions.

The first of course is the question about changes that may have been implemented in our urban development following the COVID-19 pandemic and how that has touched upon the tourist industry. I just want to say that the island of Gorée is a UNESCO World Heritage Site not only because of its historic importance but also because it is closely linked to the memory of our culture. I think it's also very closely linked with the historic heritage of much of the world, as so many different European populations and civilizations have passed through here.

But the interest is actually less historic, because we are a city which can only be reached by boat from Dakar, the capital of Senegal, so this creates a very unusual environment and also, of course, a touristic attraction. And we are unlike any other commune in Senegal because 90% of our activity is currently related to tourism or tourist-related activities, so you can easily imagine the impact of COVID-19 on our island and the measures that had to be undertaken by the authorities, such as curfews and limits on movement. For this whole time, six to eight months, Gorée has been closed to visitors – its main economic activity.

We typically have about 500,000 visitors per year. We get these figures from the shipping authorities in Dakar. We've since seen a period in which we had no visitors at all to the island, and also where there was a curfew for the islanders themselves, so we had to then introduce a whole new set of measures to enable the population to overcome these difficulties. When you depend on tourism to that extent, the pandemic has shown us the limitations this can have on a place like Gorée, so we tried a different approach.

The island has tried to open up other activities to develop a different kind of tourism, one that is much more nationally focused than international, because as you know we don't only depend on the on the boats that bring tourists across to Gorée but we also depend on flights to bring tourists to Senegal, and when international flights were stopped, this type of tourism stopped as well.

But with maritime crossings, we have been able to attract some national visitors to the island and that's how we've been able to maintain some kind of activity. Over the past few months, we've managed to get maybe 40% of activity back but the commune has worked hard to try and improve the environment to create new spaces to benefit from the fact that we had no tourism.

We turned to hotel owners and asked them to expand the range of services that they were offering and we worked hard on the memory of the Island of Gorée because we wanted to go back to natural tourism; we tried to develop the space differently and to exploit the local heritage to put that aspect at the heart of our tourist activities. So, we're hoping that once international traffic starts again and the numbers increase, we will then be able to develop this particular focus within our tourism and be more resilient.

For the second question, and I'll go quite quickly on this if I may, about whether or not we developed the interests of the local communities more than tourism, I must say that we actually tried to look at our cultural heritage and bring that alongside the natural advantages that we have on our island. We've had a lot of problems with marine erosion, and we know very well that if the natural structure of the of the island is under a threat, then the entire activity on the island is going to be under threat.



A number of the buildings that we have are of inestimable value, and we need to ensure that we fight against environmental damage to our island protect everything. We've got to protect the cultural and the natural heritage at the same time, and this has made us to start a new kind of heritage management: a programme where we hope to attract a lot of people to Gorée, but also to make visiting the island itself more pleasant, so we wanted to improve our lifestyles and that is really focused more on the locals. But we're also hoping that Gorée is going to get thousands of tourists every year from everywhere and we wanted to make their experience better, and that's what I wanted to put myself forward for the panel discussion. I don't want to overdo my participation.

Concerning the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the focus on liveability and well-being of local communities, and especially concerning the social and cultural diversity of city centres and how to preserve this, what I would say is that Gorée is a very cultural city, so even though we may not have a strong community presence, we have a diaspora, and as such we are all very interested in preserving our heritage. Those social connections mean that people understand and want to protect their heritage – even before the advent of the pandemic, we were already working closely on this with the World Heritage Centre because, unlike many other communities, Gorée has a very small population but plays a major role. The inhabitants of this space – which is only about 27 hectares – are very concerned about protecting the historic characteristics, and this is why we are hoping to valorize the heritage aspect of the site when we think about future development. As we have about 2,000 inhabitants, people might think this is small, but this actually rises to 6–7,000 – in other words, we get more than double the population visiting on any 'normal' day. We could think about the island's management policies and say that if we want to preserve the heritage, then maybe we need to be able to offer a better welcome to those thousands of people who visit annually, while at the same time respecting the unique characteristics of this very special small space.

We're working on the environmental issues and we're trying to ensure that there are lots of floral decorations in the streets, making them pleasant to walk in, and in conjunction with the Dakar UNESCO Office, we've actually modified some of the public spaces and squares to improve their liveability. We're also creating a tourist trail, which will enable visitors to discover all the major monuments, and the Dakar UNESCO experts have helped us to incorporate all of these positive aspects into our preservation plan, and to incorporate the cultural diversity aspects into our management plan. We also plan to look at cultural events, where we would like to highlight certain aspects of Gorée's role in the history of the nation. We want to focus both on historical and cultural events to promote our heritage, and these are some of the elements in our management plan that have taken their inspiration from the Recommendation. Along with changes in public spaces to increase mobility in the historic city, everything will be in perfect harmony once we're finished – that's the plan.

Thank you very much.



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Carthage (Tunisia) - Ms Hayet Bayoudh, Mayor

Transcript

Thank you very much for inviting me to take part in this discussion. The archaeological sites of Carthage has been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1979, and we've worked hard with the stakeholders to maintain the heritage and to implement the 2011 Recommendation. Working closely with the UNESCO team and other experts, we will be aiming to achieve four main objectives.

The first of these is to ensure that we make the transition from a protective policy for our monuments towards something that will promote both a better understanding as well as a historical classification of the site. It is important to protect the natural and built heritage, but we must also ensure that we have a strategy in place to protect this heritage within broader terms, and rather than look at it in a very restricted manner, that we actually look at it from a sustainable development perspective.

The second objective is to promote protection of this site by limiting the way in which the archaeological sites can be used, to ensure that we are not going to have any uncontrolled or unregulated building in the area.

Thirdly, we wanted to look at the HUL approach for further development of Carthage, and would like to adopt the UNESCO Recommendation.

Last, but not least, the fourth objective is to aim to integrate new technologies and artificial intelligence into our programmes to try to promote the HUL recommendation, and to make sure that we understand how to do this in a strategic manner.

We have five major action plans: the first is to carry out an evaluation of the conservation policy using the HUL recommendation; the second is to set up specialist training sessions for people working in the town hall and NGOs with experts from UNESCO and ICOMOS; the third is to develop a participative policy for the area, which will look at the historical and archaeological zone from a geological perspective, through the various stages of civilization right through to the modern city and its human-centred development. The fourth is to establish a multi-channel communication strategy, using different kinds of media such as social networks and the press, and the fifth action plan is to publish the results of all of this on the town hall's website, which will be called 'The Carthage Site'. This will be a fully integrated approach, something that we have already seen in other areas of the world, and I think it's going to enable Carthage to play its millennium role and demonstrate its importance for humankind and for World Heritage.

Insights by high level experts



Pampulha Modern Ensemble (Brazil) © Marcilio Gazzinelli

Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar asked the panel of experts to reflect on the role of urban heritage in improving cities and the living conditions of communities.

For Mr Vishaan Chakrabarti, William W. Wurster Dean, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley, it was extremely important to think of equity and ecology when thinking about cities. Their populations are increasing, especially in the Global South. Historic landscapes need to be central in this discussion about sustainable growth. One cannot have growth without conservation, it's not antithetical to think of both when imagining the future, and our approach to development needs to include both in its discussion (e.g. for infrastructure and urban planning).

For Ms Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Director of ICLEI Africa, the phenomenon of growth in Africa showed that informality is essential, even if often not part of the discussion; it binds culture and heritage together. It is important to consider abandoned or unconsidered heritage, including the link with natural heritage that we particularly embraced during the pandemic. We can change rapidly if we believe in the impact of our actions. Mayors and city leaders need to include nature in the discussion when addressing both the conservation and creation of heritage.

Ms Firdaous Oussidhoum, Special Adviser to the UCLG Secretary General, noted the many implications of HUL for cities and civil society. Cities fear uncontrolled development and losing their identities; this is especially true for intermediary cities. Heritage is the driving force behind self-recognition, peace and a sense of belonging. HUL can be a tool to building a future based on technology and sustainability, and it cannot be done without considering its heritage as central, which needs to be respected in the frame of a more resilient post-COVID world.

Mr Jürg Luterbacher, Director Science and Innovation Dept, Chief Scientist, World Meteorological Organization, added that the WMO has been increasingly asked to contribute to plan the future of cities with a more resilient approach. Smart cities include technological tools, but also community activities and nature. Networks between cities play a key role in minimizing fragmentation and for sharing tools, methodologies and policy-oriented study groups. It's time to unify efforts and complement actions to implement the HUL Recommendation on a global scale.

24 June 2021

Implementing the HUL
Recommendation in World
Heritage Cities



Summary

The session on 24 June was the cornerstone of the event, showcasing the conclusions from the technical sessions and remarks from UNESCO leadership, experts and session rapporteurs on the past and future implementation of HUL in cities worldwide.

Opening remarks were given by Ms Mechtild Rossler, Director (retired as of September 30 2021) of the World Heritage Centre. She noted that World heritage sites are recognized for their OUV and must be preserved for the benefits of future generations. The World Heritage Convention is the largest legal convention for heritage preservation with 194 States Parties, while the 2011 Recommendation specifically addresses urban landscape and heritage to develop a new and sustainable approach to conservation and development. Cities across the world face specific problems: inappropriate infrastructure development, issues related to the COVID pandemic and its impact on local economic development, landscape concerns (e.g. skyscrapers), and climate change (especially for cities near water, which fall under the remit of the Earth Observatory).

She recalled that the HUL network provides innovative solutions and valuable policy guidance. The 1972 Convention provides a long-standing framework to protect heritage. Contemporary issues facing it include sustainable tourism and economic challenges, as well as the multiple crises provoked by climate change. Innovative solutions, practices and policies are needed more than ever, as are culture-based strategies for more connected, resilient and creative cities.



Welcoming remarks

Ms Mechtild Rossler, Director of the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Transcript

Dear Minister Nadiem, dear experts from around the world, dear national and local representatives of World Heritage cities, dear friends, It is with great pleasure that I welcome you today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and its application in World Heritage cities.

As you know, World Heritage sites are recognized for their Outstanding Universal Value, core to our shared humanity, which must be protected and conserved for the benefit of future generations. World Heritage cities are living cities where ordinary people continue to live, work, dream, and raise children. Local communities have, in many instances, lived in the World Heritage site for generations.

The 1972 World Heritage Convention is the most universal international legal instrument in heritage conservation, with 194 States Parties and more than 1,100 properties inscribed on its prestigious World Heritage List. About one-third of these (300+) are urban sites, monuments or whole cities – they are part of the World Heritage Cities Programme. Thus, historic cities constitute one of the largest thematic categories that require specific policies for protection and management. One of the core tools for the management of urban heritage is the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

This Recommendation approaches urban heritage as a complex set of layers in its wider setting and includes the relationship of the built fabric with its natural environment and its local communities. It is thus a valuable tool today to develop solutions that integrate protection of heritage values with climate action for mitigation and adaptation, and inclusive building solutions using local materials and technology. Above all, such an approach values and supports living cities with thriving local communities that make World Heritage cities unique and vibrant places that seek to include all inhabitants.

Over the years, the number of monitoring reports on cities has increased with the growing number of inscriptions on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Specific problems are now being highlighted, including inappropriate infrastructure projects, skyscrapers affecting the visual integrity of historic districts and pseudohistorical additions to the urban fabric.

Over recent months, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll and the sudden loss of tourism has hugely impacted the local economy of many heritage sites. For this reason, UNESCO has established a special Task Force for Tourism chaired by the Assistant Director-General for Culture. The experience of the pandemic has also raised important questions around the planning and development of all cities, including historic cities, with a focus on local economic development to support recovery and well-being.

Another major threat is climate change, which is now among the top threats to cultural and natural heritage sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Their continued preservation requires understanding these impacts on their Outstanding Universal Value and responding to them effectively. UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee have been at the forefront of addressing this threat since 2005, leading to the adoption of the World Heritage Policy on Climate Change and many case studies on sites under threat. The Committee is currently updating its policy on climate change.

With more than a third of the World Heritage cities being coastal or along major rivers, the impact of climate change is particularly critical. Recently, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the GEO Secretariat and the GEO Greek Office launched the Urban Heritage Climate Observatory, aiming to bring together experts and stakeholders from the relevant fields of climate change, Earth observation and urban heritage to help understand and document the impact of climate change on World Heritage cities.

Today's session brings together leading experts and representatives from World Heritage cities around the world to discuss the application of the HUL approach in World Heritage cities. Projects and practices from cities such as Queretaro and Puebla, Mexico; San Gimignano, Italy; Nanjing, China; and Graz and Salzburg, Austria will be examined for their impact on issues of sustainable tourism, local economic development, crisis response, and other subjects relevant to heritage and urban management. They will address how HUL has been and can continue to be used to build resilience during the ongoing COVID crisis and in the face of climate change.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the other activities of the World Heritage Cities programme. As part of the programme, the World Heritage City Dialogues has been set up as a virtual platform for site managers and local authorities to meet, exchange and share their experiences managing urban World Heritage sites across their region – to learn about key challenges, share innovative solutions, as well as relevant policy guidance. The World Heritage City Lab has been developed as an innovative global and collaborative series of events for developing strategies and solutions to the challenges of managing World Heritage cities in the framework of the policies and processes of the World Heritage Convention, as well as the HUL Recommendation. Urban Notebooks was developed as a monthly e-newsletter for site managers, and includes examples of innovative practices; it is published in English, French and Spanish.

Finally, World Heritage Canopy, a platform of innovative practices and strategies that further heritage protection for sustainable development, including the implementation of the HUL Recommendation, was launched in April this year.

I look forward to today's discussion, which I am confident will leverage more culture-based strategies to build cities that are stronger, more sustainable, more resilient, and more deeply connected to their histories and landscape.

**Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director,
World Heritage Centre, UNESCO**

Transcript

Thank you very much Ms Rossler. I will give you a very brief introduction to the HUL Recommendation. I know that everybody here is well aware of the Recommendation and has been working with it for a number of years, but just in case there are some for whom it is still new, I will very quickly go through a short introduction.

The Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) calls on UNESCO Member States to integrate conservation and management of cultural heritage in cities and settlements with policies and practices for sustainable urban development. It applies to all historic cities, not only World Heritage sites. But it's very important for World Heritage sites. It advocates a landscape approach for identifying, conserving and managing historic areas within their broader contexts, considering the interrelationship between the physical forms, natural features, and social and cultural values.

This innovative, standard-setting instrument argues for the integration of heritage conservation with urban development plans and processes in order to manage change to protect the heritage values – the Outstanding Universal Value in the case of World Heritage properties. The HUL Recommendation and its approaches have become the standard framework for the implementation of the World Heritage Cities programme, which covers more than 300 World Heritage properties that are living urban centres or parts of settlements.

The HUL Recommendation recognizes the importance of aligning with and furthering the agenda for sustainable development. The New Urban Agenda, the African Union Agenda and also the World Heritage General Assembly adopted the World Sustainability Development Policy, which of course is also applicable to all World Heritage cities.

Next, from poorly planned tourism development projects and transportation projects to inadequate management plans and systems, there are a number of threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties. Reports examined by the World Heritage committee in the last two World Heritage Committee meetings have been in urban areas dealing with urban pressures; more than a third of World Heritage cities are coastal. These factors are significant, both for the protection of heritage and for sustainable development.

UNESCO carried out the second Member State Survey on the Implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in 2019. The recommendations and outcomes from this survey of UNESCO Member States, and their implementation of the HUL instrument, highlighted the need to reinforce the implementation of eco-sensitive policies with the New Urban Agenda.

So again, the emphasis is on aligning the implementation of the HUL Recommendation with major global commitments including the New Urban Agenda and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), and establishing monitoring mechanisms to

support cities in promoting sustainable urban development. To support cities on this task, UNESCO has collected and disseminated international good practices and experiences applying the HUL Recommendation, and supported local implementation of the HUL approach, integrating tools for impact assessments and using digital technologies.

At the request of the World Heritage Committee, a meeting of international experts on heritage in urban contexts took place in January 2020 in Fukuoka, Japan, to discuss the management of World Heritage cities. One of the main outcomes of the Fukuoka meeting was a methodology to better identify urban heritage attributes and a basic framework for urban heritage management that refined the previous six-step approach for implementing HUL. As part of the World Heritage City Dialogues, nine regional sessions brought site managers and focal points together to share their experiences of the challenges facing World Heritage cities.

A major issue was the COVID crisis, of course, and the challenges that this brought to the cities. In June 2020, the first World Heritage City Lab was organized by the World Heritage Centre with the themes of recovery and building back better, and the ongoing pandemic. Specialists from more than 40 countries gathered to learn from case studies, with a co-creative and collaborative approach to developing strategies. Five pathways for recovery and resilience were identified: the first was a people-centred recovery; second a green recovery; third an equitable economic recovery; fourth, recovering space and infrastructure; and finally, a digitally powered recovery.

More detail on this can be found in the full report. Subsequent labs have been organized in Kyiv, Ukraine, on World Heritage and sustainable development policies; in Prague, Czechia, on integrating heritage conservation planning processes, and the Union for the Mediterranean (online) on adaptive reuse and regeneration.



Expert panel at the World Heritage City Lab in Kyiv, Ukraine © Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine and the National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Preserve

With rising temperatures and accompanying sea level rise, as the Director has already pointed out, there is an increased risk of climate-related disasters, which are growing in number. Also relevant to mention here is a new collaborative activity that we have just launched with the group on Earth observations – the Urban Heritage and Climate Observatory – to understand and document the impact of climate change on World Heritage cities, building on recent work by UNESCO on urban heritage. I want to recall two significant works here. The first is the UNESCO Global Survey of Culture and Heritage for Sustainable Urban Development that was launched at the Habitat conference in Quito, the Culture: Urban Future report. The second is the UNESCO-World Bank collaborative work on culture in city reconstruction and recovery. Cities are increasingly bearing the brunt of conflicts, crises and disasters, and are themselves growing in number, so the framework for culture in city reconstruction and recovery – also called the CURE framework – is a culture-based approach to the process of city reconstruction and recovery in post-conflict, post-disaster and urban distress situations, which takes into account the needs, values and priorities of people.

In recent years, UNESCO has developed indicators to measure the role and contribution of culture to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national and urban levels; these were launched during the forum of culture ministers in November and are currently being piloted in several cities.

I want to quickly wrap up now with some key activities.

- [Urban Notebooks](#) was a monthly e-newsletter primarily aimed at managers of urban heritage, conservation specialists and those interested in supporting heritage, and it includes examples of innovative practices. It is available in English, French and Spanish. It was especially important during the ongoing global COVID crisis and the accompanying shutdowns to allow site managers and others concerned to share their experiences and challenges.
- [World Heritage Canopy](#) is a platform of innovative practices and strategies, referred to by the Director, that furthers heritage protection for sustainable development, including the implementation of the HUL Recommendation.
- I want to end by calling on everyone to join the UNESCO network for HUL and respond to the HUL Call for Action. You can go to the link [here](#) and sign up for the three actions, as outlined by our Assistant Director-General yesterday during the launch.

Thank you very much.

Messages from city leaders

Mr Nasser Kamel, Secretary-General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Transcript

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to greet you on behalf of the Union for the Mediterranean. Today about 90% of the region's population live in urban areas and we all know that the Mediterranean basin is also a hotspot of climate change in our historic cities. Cultural heritage is a means of local livelihood and development, and UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) has proved its enduring value as a realistic approach to sustainable urban development for a decade now. It is specifically adapted to show us how to accommodate historic context in new development; it shows us how we can factor tangible and intangible heritage cultural diversity, socio-economic and environmental factors, as well as local community values, in urban planning design.

This is why we have closely collaborated with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in integrating the Historic Urban Landscape approach in our strategic urban development and housing action plans for the next two decades. We have already incorporated all three actions of today's HUL Call for Action into our action plans.

In this context, we will continue to work very closely with UNESCO in mainstreaming the HUL approach across the Mediterranean. I thank you very much and I wish you a very successful meeting.



Medina of Sousse (Tunisia) © Editions Gelbart

**Ms Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailović,
Secretary-General Europa Nostra**

Transcript

On behalf of Europa Nostra, the European voice of civil society committed to cultural heritage, I am delighted to express our strong endorsement of the vital work carried out by UNESCO to ensure sustainable and inclusive management of historic urban landscapes across the globe. This is why we applaud UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and we fully support the related Call for Action, launched on the occasion of the anniversary of this key policy document.

We are delighted that this anniversary and HUL Call for Action coincides with Europe's major mobilization for improving the quality of our living environment, among others, through the New European Bauhaus initiative launched by the European Union, and also through the Davos process promoting the principles of high quality design.

Let us mobilize at European and global levels to make our cities with their historic urban landscapes more sustainable, more inclusive and more beautiful places to live, work, enjoy and visit. Let us preserve our past in order to understand our present and to shape a better future together. Thank you.

**Mr Carlo Francini, World Heritage
Site Manager, Historic Centre of
Florence (Italy)**

Transcript

Today I am going to present to you the World Heritage property “Historic Centre of Florence” and its management system. Florence is located in central Italy and is the capital city of the Tuscany region. Its historic centre has been inscribed on the List and several of its buildings, monuments and museums bear testimony to many years of a flourishing cultural and artistic scene. In particular, there is the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Church of Santa Croce, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery and Palazzo Pitti. The city’s history is evident in the artistic works of great masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. The Arno river runs from east to west through the city and a series of bridges connect the two banks, including the famous Ponte Vecchio, the oldest bridge in Florence.

Here, the concept of the Renaissance and modern humanism were created. To strengthen the site’s governance, we created the ‘R Lab’, a joint research project between the University of Florence and the municipality of Florence. Some projects are dedicated to a better quality of life, such as the reuse of small forgotten squares in spaces that have great potential, involving citizens in active heritage preservation, and the ‘Florence Greenway’, a green walkway over 4 km long through the landscape of the Oltrarno area. With regard to the environmental fabric, the Flood Risk Management Plan aims to build a homogeneous and effective framework to manage this risk. Last but not least, the implementation of an integrated mobility system that includes tram lines, electric taxis, pedestrian areas and bike lanes is making Florence a more lively, sustainable and well-connected city. Our mission is to make Florence a living, thriving and welcoming city centred on sustainable development and on the enhancement of the Outstanding Universal Value which brought it to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Lungarno Torrigiani, Florence © Carlo Francini

**Mr Marco Pasquali, Mayor of Sabbioneta
and Ms Alessandra Riccadonna, Town
Councillor of Mantua (Italy).**

Transcript

Welcome to the Palazzo Te, a palace located in Mantua, part of the Mantua and Sabbioneta World Heritage Site. One side, two places, like two sides of the same coin.

Mantua and Sabbioneta are located in the north of Italy and are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. They are a serial site and are complementary: you can't understand one city without knowing the other. Both cities are outstanding examples of urban architectural and artistic elements typical of the Renaissance, and are closely linked with the ducal Gonzaga family, one of the most important and powerful families of the ages. They represent two different examples of the typical town planning of the time.

Sabbioneta was a newly founded town based on the concept of the ideal city, while Mantua is the transformation of an existing town during the Renaissance. Both cities have played a fundamental role in the diffusion of Renaissance culture within Europe and abroad. Some of the greatest artists of the time, like Julio Romano Lombardini, Bramante, Raphael, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Vincenzo Scamozzi have worked in both cities, all enlisted by the Gonzaga family. The UNESCO office is committed to actively preserving and promoting the site in compliance with the management plan that has recently been updated, adopting a more integrated approach including communities and stakeholders.

We are creating the first Mantua and Sabbioneta centre in the middle of the city, which will serve both as an interpretation and visitor centre.

**Mr Jean-Paul A.M. Corten, Senior
Policy Officer, Cultural Heritage
Agency (Netherlands)**

Transcript

Dear participants, in this short video message, I want to elaborate on the concept of integrated conservation and the way we analyse this. Integrated conservation is one of the key concepts in the HUL approach. It aims to create favourable conditions for the survival of historic features by means of spatial planning, thus linking heritage conservation to the social agenda and positioning heritage to accommodate current societal needs.

At the time when I was helping my former colleagues Fritz von Warden and Peter Venden to draw up the nomination files for Paramaribo's World Heritage listing, integrated conservation was widely practised in the Netherlands through a huge programme of inner city renewal. In this programme, heritage was strategically positioned to revitalize these inner cities that were, without exception, in a very dilapidated state. A good example is Amsterdam, currently a prestigious listed World Heritage property. Today, Amsterdam is full of energy and life, a place where people like to work and spend their leisure time. But that has not always been the case: in the 1960s and 1970s, the city of Amsterdam was in dire straits. Residents moved out, investments did not materialize, and visitors had to be aware of the many no-go areas. In the process of inner-city rehabilitation, heritage was positioned as a strategic asset, not aimed at conservation, but as a means to recreate a vibrant city centre. This worked out very well, as the city of Amsterdam is in better shape today than it has ever been in its 800-year history.

When asked by colleagues overseas to assist in similar rehabilitation processes, we further analysed the Dutch experience. Jointly, we developed a 'quick scan' method for the historical urban landscape, which aims to define development potential that can provide a *raison d'être* for the heritage at stake, and at the same time predict development threats to the heritage, by putting these opportunities and risks on a map. We offer a base for spatial planning, providing legal security and continuity to investors. The city of Samara, currently nominated by Indonesia for World Heritage listing, is one of many examples.

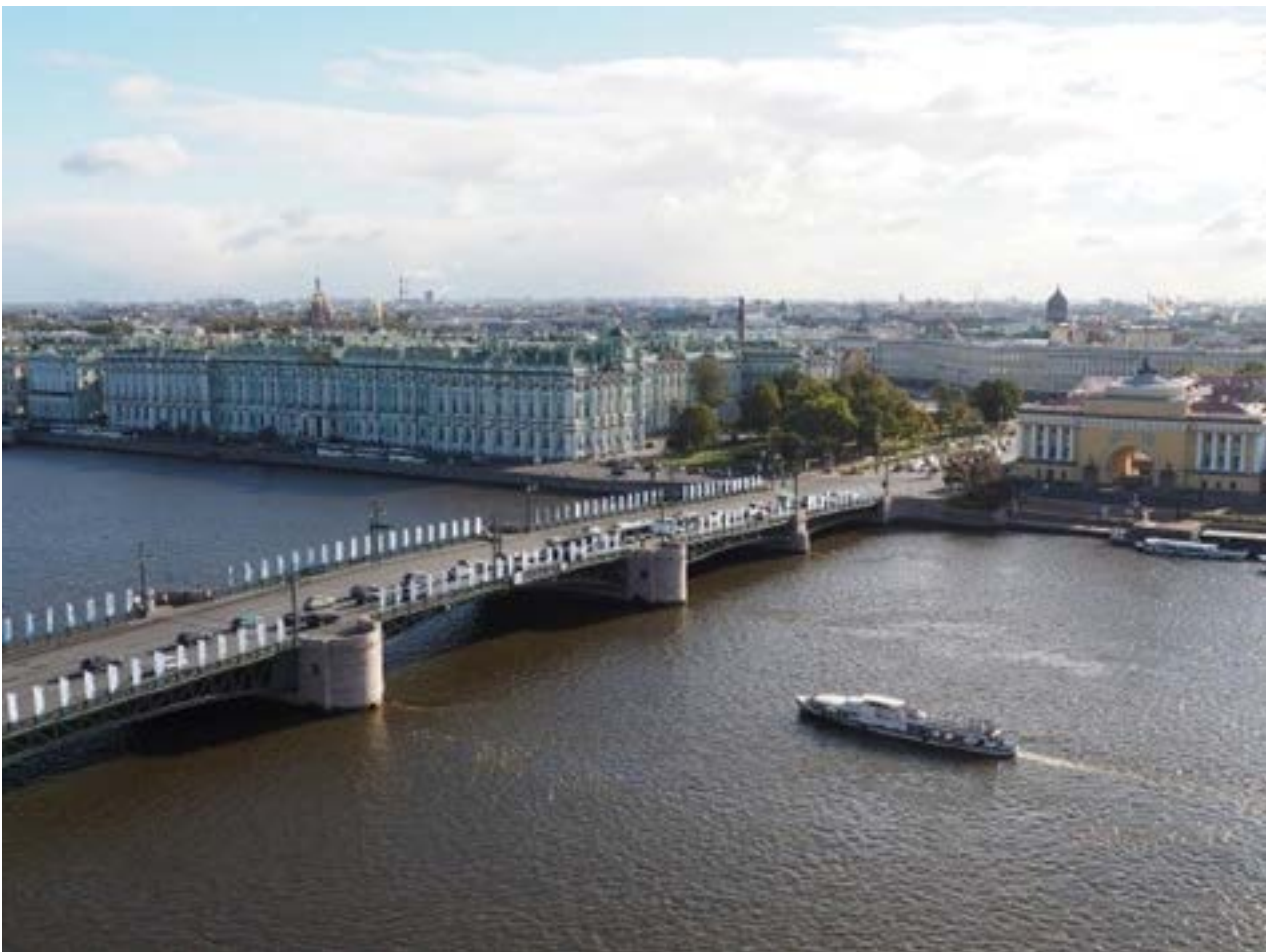
We may conclude that HUL offers a solid base for socially sustainable futures. Thank you.

**Mr Sergey Makarov, Chief of the
Committee for State Preservation of
Historical Cultural Monuments, Saint
Petersburg (Russian Federation)**

Transcript

Dear colleagues, I'm delighted to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape with you. This is a very special and important document which allowed us to preserve our heritage for future generations. Saint Petersburg is a city famous for its rich cultural background which has been carefully kept for many years. I hope that this celebration will bring more opportunities to establish new horizons in urban management.

Thank you.



Panel: Regional reports from preparatory technical meetings



Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)© Tourismus Salzburg GmbH

For the **African region**, rapporteur Ms Ishanlosen Odiaua, Vice-President, ICOMOS Nigeria, addressed the four case studies presented and the issues they raised:

- Governance: need to strengthen the role of local governments; stakeholders' engagement boosting partnerships and creating new ones; integration of conservation concerns and urban planning.
- Inclusion: people-centred approach; economic diversification; opportunities for innovation in enhancing urban identities and building new ones; application of digital technologies; building mass of heritage enthusiasts; improving the quality of residents' life; engaging young people and traditional knowledge to preserve layers of history; historical models of social cohesion.
- Conserving urban spaces: preserving centres and green space, promoting and re-viving traditional constructions techniques.

Reporting on the preliminary technical session on the **Arab States** region, Ms Imane Bennani, Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat, noted the Chair's introductory speech and the experience of Bahrain, and then presented learnings from the case studies.

- In Cairo, the approach involved revitalization through partnerships and community engagement.
- For Carthage, the negative impacts of rapid urbanization were being neutralized through the application of the HUL approach.

Thematically, she noted that heritage preservation strategies all used an integrated and holistic approach. She reiterated the importance of sustainable action and social engagement, and the central role of local activities. She also noted the necessary involvement of the private sector for funding, and elsewhere, a focus on the natural environment and a good quality of life for citizens. How should we continue to apply the HUL approach in these World Heritage sites? By creating new socio-economic dynam-

ics and strategies, developing new partnerships for financing to ensure good management, and by using the HUL Recommendation for risk management in sites and cities.

Reporting on the **Asia and the Pacific** region, rapporteur Ms Shikha Jain, Vice-President of ICOMOS-ICOFORT and expert member of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes, gave the following conclusions:

- Regarding the case study on the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens in Melbourne, challenges in development pressures and buffer zone pressures: the action taken was to engage the local community through interactive maps and online surveys, increasing the involvement of the community in the heritage management, which was both an adaptation and an innovation in the COVID era.
- On the case study of the City of Ping Yao, challenges included the historic fabric, the economic condition of inhabitants and tourism.

Actions included: awareness activities, financial incentives and improvement of infrastructures, people-centred goals for conservation and development, the use of civil engagement tools to accommodate the diversity of living heritage, and the implementation of tools and policies for climate change and the pandemic crisis.

Opportunities include the diverse heritage and consequent actions for improving public spaces and the local economy.

Ms Carola Hein, full professor and Chair, History of Architecture and Urban Planning, Delft University of Technology, gave her summary of the case studies and issues put forward for other cities in **Europe and North America**.

For Graz, the goal was the connection between heritage sites and high quality and safe public spaces. The key issue for Salzburg was the revision of the management plan to work on infrastructure and pedestrian areas, while integrating cultural activities and events in the central area. For Durham, it was citizens' engagement and consultation in city planning and policy design, and in Urbino, the relationship between the urban and natural environment (organic agriculture). Shared challenges, outcomes and opportunities included issues of long-term planning, holistic approaches, multiple partnerships, data-based action, funding opportunities, civil engagement and people-centred policies. For Strasbourg, the HUL approach was used to put nature at the centre of valorizing built heritage.

Ms Hein listed her takeaways as:

- questions on diversity, inclusivity and social justice;
- an 'ecosystemic' approach;
- hearing the local community and the citizens in public consultations on the activities around the heritage sites;
- community engagement, not only with urban development, but also with areas such as agriculture and water;
- management aligned with the achievement of sustainable development in urban heritage contexts.

For the second set of case studies from Europe and North America, Ms Marie-Noël Tournoux of WHITRAP evoked the key points on the layering of heritage values:

- The need to first ask, rethink, discuss.
- Strengthening local capacity development.

- The social role of World Heritage values in contributing to resilience, livelihoods and social inclusion. Integrated strategies: intersectoral governance, synergies between fields and new forms of partnerships.
- The involvement of local communities and stakeholders.
- Participatory and inclusive development.

Regarding the case study on Mantua and Sabbioneta, she noted the themes of innovative planning strategy and commitment to long-term purposes and the importance of partnerships with different institutions, as well as the role of the presence of water for both cities. For the case study on Coimbra, she highlighted local community involvement to develop new strategies for tourism. Concerning San Gimignano, she pointed to the integration of urban and rural areas and community.

The challenges faced by these and other sites in the region include working with many stakeholders and different interests, the issue of finances and resources; development pressures, how to adapt to climate change, the health crisis, and not least the issue of shared values among different populations and generations. Opportunities include the chance to use more participatory and inclusive processes (especially regarding young people and rural communities), new forms of collaborations and partnerships, generating more sustainable livelihoods, local revenues and support for small enterprises, and the chance to renew links with the social role of World Heritage.

For the **Latin America and Caribbean** region, rapporteur Ms Maya Ishizawa (heritage specialist, member of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes) summarized four case studies of the work conducted under the HUL approach on urban planning, restoration and reuse, and social inclusion.

Common issues faced were: housing-related challenges, predominant short-term policies, lack of shared awareness, fragmented working practices, regulatory and legal weakness on a technical and coordinative level, and a lack of consensus on working methodologies. Strategies for legal redress included: harmonizing regulations and decentralization, and for governance: fostering coordination and dialogue, diagnosis and assessment for all actors to use for planning. Key issues to be addressed on a socio-economic level: return of residents to centres, housing creation, and PPPs to solve funding issues. Opportunities included: promoting local leadership and community mechanisms, more inclusive governance, top-down and bottom-up collaboration. The pandemic had highlighted the need to advance G30, for cities to look at complexity and focus on interlinkages beyond planning, and to use other instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Round Tables

Konso Cultural Landscape (Ethiopia) © Yonas Beyene

Round Table 1

Chaired by Ms Minja Yang, senior heritage expert, the session investigated the question *‘How can the actions to protect urban heritage also contribute to some aspect of sustainable development and enhance the city’s resilience at the same time?’*

For Ms Laura Petrella, Leader of the City Planning, Extension and Design Unit at UN-Habitat, rapid demographic change in cities, and inadequate capacity to manage planning and growth have created a deteriorating situation for historic areas and the urban landscape at large, putting pressure on maintenance and preservation. She emphasized the importance of devoting specific attention to non-central areas and peripheral neighbourhoods. The opportunities emerging from this Call to Action include a dynamic and dialectic development which includes heritage conservation.

“HUL brings interesting thinking about how to link heritage to urban development. Lessons can be learned from experience and local actions”

Ms Laura Petrella, Leader of the City Planning, Extension and Design Unit at UN-Habitat

The damage caused by the pandemic in terms of economic opportunities will affect heritage, but many cities showed great resilience in the face of this. UN Habitat is also working in this field, especially on the level of national urban policies and local economic development initiatives. Low-density suburban areas are less resilient as they have (typically) weaker social structures and rigid planning. They create ‘gaps’ in the community resilience of a city. HUL brings interesting thinking about how to link heritage to urban development. Lessons can be learned from experience and local actions: the

role of culture and heritage in urban development is reflected in the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, and this focus on culture can bring better quality outcomes. She noted that the HUL Call for Action is a real opportunity to expand the exchange of experience and enhance collaboration.

Mr Pier Luigi Sacco, Senior Researcher at the OECD, noted that it was important to celebrate this Recommendation when assessing the social dimension of the post-pandemic scenario, allowing us to rethink the fabric of the city and the crucial role of the community. Heritage can be an asset to shape this proactive attitude, for example the interconnection between heritage and economic activities in Siena. Furthermore, heritage helps build narratives as ways to help us interact and build social meaning around our heritage, linking behavioural change and sustainable development achievements.

For Mr Tim Badman and Mr Russell Galt, both of the IUCN, urban development needs participative planning and shared tools to track progress in shaping future action. This covers seven strategic imperatives, including culture, but also includes educating urban shapers, empowering communities, sharing knowledge, measuring performance, and more.

Mr Nishimura Yukio, Professor at Kokugakuin University, Japan, spoke about how to approach the planning of high-rise buildings in historical cities, which was one of the reasons behind the development of the HUL Recommendation. Buffer zones were shown not to be enough. Working with buildings means first of all working with the people who live in the heritage. He noted that this is a dynamic process of building narratives. Stakeholder engagement is the first step in building a people-centred approach. Then comes a dimensional system to manage buildings: build the physical format of heritage, work with the people who are managing the cities, create story-telling and shared values, involve communities in the discussions with stakeholders with a human-centred approach. He noted that how we perceive shared value is very important. From the technical sessions, lots of words like 'dialogue' and 'stakeholder, engagement' were used. All are related to people. The human-centred approach is key to building consensus around HUL. Landscape as a term is key : you can't 'preserve' a landscape; it needs human intervention to exist.

Next came remarks from Mr Jad Tabet, President of the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut. He stated that the HUL approach marked an epistemological turning point by addressing the scale of cities and not limiting the perspective to mere groups of buildings. Resistance to adopting the HUL approach was demonstrated in several cases, especially when considering the extensive urban scale that the approach involves, since HUL extends the notion of urban heritage to intangible heritage and community identity.

***“The Beirut urban declaration
with universities and civil
society defined the role of a
comprehensive reconstruction
strategy based on HUL”***

Mr Jad Tabet, President of the Order
of Engineers and Architects of Beirut.

This resistance to the HUL approach was exacerbated by cases where extending urban heritage beyond the core to include the urban fabric created a suspicion among States Parties that it would limit their freedom to manage World Heritage sites, such as Vienna, St Petersburg, Liverpool, Dresden, and more. But other cities were open to new perspectives. This was the case for the shared heritage of Rabat, Rio de Janeiro, and others that could not have been inscribed had they not been invested in the HUL approach. A second issue is that HUL includes social and cultural practices and values. Conservation

should be based on a comprehensive strategy, including sustainable development. The adoption of HUL ten years ago provided a strategic basis for cities, whether they were World Heritage or not. This was good for Beirut neighbourhoods hit by the blast in 2020, in a context where the Lebanese state is basically absent and community-based organization is key. The Beirut urban declaration with universities and civil society defined the role of a comprehensive reconstruction strategy based on HUL.

Mr Edgar Pieterse from the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town recalled that development should bridge Indigenous knowledge, technology and economic theory. Challenges in the Africa region are in urgent need of measures and participative processes to find solutions, and a historical perspective to address inequalities and their real causes.

There are two methodologies for this: a recognition of culture that is connected to repatriation, and the propositional mindset to address the potential of living heritage to deal with trauma and violence. This impacts how African cities confront the pandemic. The power of the heritage and historic perspective lies in thinking of the inequalities in the cities, recognizing culture as an asset to reduce this. This involves community participation and finding consensus. Some issues are irresolvable, and restorative justice is required to prioritize what needs to be done.

For Mr Rogier van den Berg, Director of Urban Development, WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute, heritage and climate resilience are closely linked. There is a large repository of knowledge on how to cope with disasters: traditional knowledge and systems of adaptation. Also, we can work to build climate resilience into the DNA of cities. Heritage planning can be at odds with climate planning.

“There is a large repository of knowledge on how to cope with disasters: traditional knowledge and systems of adaptation.”

Mr Rogier van den Berg, Director of Urban Development, WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute

In New Orleans, there have been no streetscape adaptations because of historic preservation regulations. If we want to use embodied knowledge as a catalyst, we need to rethink that. A third issue is how to bring data analytics to the table to measure risks and vulnerabilities, not just on the artifacts that attract tourists but the larger structures that cities are built on. Often environmental degradation is the result of a loss of connection to the environment.

Finally, Ms Patricia Greene of the University of Technology, Jamaica, Caribbean School of Architecture, Faculty of the Built Environment, spoke on the Caribbean region, where ten World Heritage cities are distributed on Island Developing States. She noted the impact of natural disasters on heritage in the region. These cities are in the process of rethinking HUL principles, sharing tools and getting inspiration from other sites' policies and management plans. She gave the example of Paramaribo in Suriname using its intangible heritage to build resilience, as well as Havana and St George in Bermuda. She also pointed to the role of historical, political and financial dimensions in shaping the urban heritage framework in cities.

She went on to say that the Caribbean features people-centred human resilience. One of the things that has caused disagreement is the issue of colonialism: politicians are reluctant to put money into heritage since the way it has been presented as OUV and for World Heritage is that it belongs to Europe and not to the people of the Caribbean.

This raises the question of how to create vernacular landscapes. What is the collective experience of the Caribbean people? She concluded by speaking about the experience of looking at the new management plan for Paramaribo in Suriname in 2019. This site, covering only around 30 ha, with resilient wooden architecture, has applied HUL. Something wonderful came out of workshops there: 'alacongre', a Maroon word, meaning 'inclusive'. This represents intangible heritage, applied and appropriated to this site. Instead of incorporating the values from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, young people of African, Indigenous or Asian descent came together to be trained, as an example of people-centred social resilience.

Session chair Ms Minja Yang closed the session by noting the importance of combining bottom-up and top-down approaches; each needs the other to be effectively implemented, and room found for their application. She also noted the importance of community engagement and the human-centred dimension.

Round Table 2

The second and final roundtable of the day was facilitated by Mr Michael Turner, Professor, Bezalel School of Architecture. He asked, *'What are some key actions that city authorities and site managers could take to implement the HUL Recommendation?'*

The first respondent, Ms Lee Minaidis, Interim Secretary General, Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), noted that post-pandemic tourism is recovering, with renewal and resilience at the forefront of the discussion. This new reality after the pandemic means it is important to think beyond central areas of cities as mere touristic places; more space needs to be given over to public and green spaces to improve the quality of residents' life, improve biodiversity in the city and overcome climate change. She recalled that OWHC participated in the adoption of the HUL Recommendation.

"More space needs to be given over to public and green spaces to improve the quality of residents' life, improve biodiversity in the city and overcome climate change"

Ms Lee Minaidis, Interim
Secretary General, Organization
of World Heritage Cities

Next, Mr Ratish Nanda, CEO of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture remarked on the importance of sharing learning and tools. Conservation can be a strategic balance between improving quality of life and urban development. There are issues with policies and buffer zones in India interfering with the development of historic areas. The cases shared demonstrated that the HUL approach is valid and effective for projects involving all heritage and not only listed World Heritage sites. In these places, infrastructure, education and public health are central, as is the creation of spaces to implement intangible heritage practices. There should be more incentives for developing urban cores, rather than banning development around monuments. A lot of communities who might be

able to retain historic character do not have the technical knowledge – NGOs like us and UNESCO need to provide technical assistance to communities. Finally, we need to demonstrate what we are doing across cities, implement projects that implement the validity of the HUL approach. This can be seen in projects in Delhi and the notion of urban acupuncture.

Mr Sergio Vergara, Culture Secretary of the State of Puebla, Mexico, spoke about the notion of cultural corridors linking the 32 areas of Puebla and the intangible part of HUL: combining languages, traditions and ancestral wisdom. The cultural corridors approach is based on our older neighbourhoods in historic centres.

This phenomenon in the historic centre of Puebla involves the populations living there and raises the issue of liveability. Preservation of historic centres worldwide involves using HUL principles to protect cultural heritage and lifestyles of the people: traditions, food, artefacts and the historic identities of site. Now people can live there better – the cities are much more sustainable; you are able to walk through them without too much traffic; they are more breathable, and people are happy. We need to think about making the old centres more people-focused, while remembering the socio-economic factors at play.

Ms Susan McDonald, Head of Buildings and Sites for the Getty Conservation Institute, then spoke about specific actions based on the support given to local governments. She noted the commitment of cities to the principles stated by HUL: generating interest in the importance of historic landscapes and the emergence of sustainable development. Local government action is key, and partnerships with local communities and civil society need to merge bottom-up and top-down actions within a regulatory framework of cities and local policies. We need to use traditional ancestor landscapes and raise up champions to help sustain HUL and enable it to respond to climate change and sustainable development challenges, as well as operationalizing and supporting HUL work worldwide.

For Mr Joe King, ICCROM, city authorities and site managers are still the main stakeholders involved with heritage. But local residential and community involvement is growing, and it is more important than ever to rethink our approach to heritage and development. Participatory process should not be a privileged environment; rather every voice should be involved and heard. Every site and place requires a specific design to act. Negotiation needs to improve to manage conflict resolution and shared

“A lot of communities who might be able to retain historic character do not have the technical knowledge – NGOs like the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and UNESCO need to provide technical assistance to communities”

Mr Ratish Nanda, CEO of the
Aga Khan Trust for Culture

“Partnerships with local communities and civil society need to merge bottom-up and top-down actions within a regulatory framework of cities and local policies.”

Ms Susan McDonald, Head of Buildings
and Sites, Getty Conservation Institute,

decision-making. Public forums have to be set up to share the opinions and resolutions of the decision-makers. There is a huge need for skills in negotiation and conflict resolution. Beyond the community level, this applies to institutions at the regional (water, environment, etc.). Bring all voices together around common tools so that they understand that they can change things on the ground.

Ms Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director WHITRAP Shanghai, followed up by saying that city authorities and related sustainable management are a *sine qua non* of development. Art 5.1 of the World Heritage Convention calls on the relationship between heritage and communities, and its contribution to sustainable development. Ms Tournoux cited the political aspect of governance at leader level and tourism, housing and transport as key to fighting overdevelopment, and noted that many city networks are reflecting on the SDGs and financial development. We also need mapping, surveys, elements and values for new developments at city level, and a development framework for community consensus. Accessibility is another central aspect to take into consideration.

For Mr Ebrahim Alkhalifa, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), the engagement of local communities is central to urban regeneration. From previous experience, public - private partnerships were essential.

Mr Alkhalifa referred to the experience in Bahrain, where inscription on to the World Heritage List had a positive impact on local communities. The migration trend away from cities has now been reversed, and the socio-economic benefits from tourism remain significant, despite challenges to its sustainability. As an example of the HUL approach in the Arab region, in Muharraq, Bahrain, authorities and site managers are engaged with communities in regenerating the city. The post-recovery strategy in Muharraq reflects the situation in Arab cities over the last ten years.

Next to speak was Mr Alpha Diop, architect, President of ICOMOS Mali, Vice-President of ICOMOS International, Knight of the National Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mali, who noted that the role of advisory bodies of ICOMOS went beyond that of heritage. He emphasized the challenges for historic cit-

“We need mapping, surveys, elements and values for new developments at city level, and a development framework for community consensus”

Ms Marie-Noël Tournoux, Project Director WHITRAP Shanghai

“The engagement of local communities is central to urban regeneration. Public-private partnerships are essential”

Mr Ebrahim Alkhalifa, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage

ies in Africa which are both endogenous and exogenous. We can think of multiple challenges such as demography, climate change impacts and especially ‘aggressions’ on local culture and traditions. We must think about relying on traditional knowledge and local habits when designing urban development plans. From his point of view, the notion of ‘Heritage Impact Assessment’ should be integrated directly into the development plans of cities.

“We must think about relying on traditional knowledge and local habits when designing urban development plans.”

Mr Alpha Diop, architect,
President of ICOMOS Mali,

Finally, by way of conclusion to the session and to the HUL Anniversary celebration, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar spoke about designing the way forward. Her main points cover a wide range of topics on:

- governance (integration, cooperation, partnerships, management plan);
- finance;
- heritage management;
- urban development;
- social and community inclusion;
- sustainable tourism;
- local development;
- green spaces and natural environment,

These topics were seen as key in order to best operationalize the approach of the HUL Recommendation. Finally, Ms Hosagrahar invited the participants to get involved through City Dialogues, CityLab and Urban Notebooks and thanked the partners.

16-21 June 2021

Preliminary
Technical Sessions



Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing
and Shenyang (China) © Aneta Ribarska

Summary

Between 16 and 21 June 2021, six Preliminary Technical Sessions brought together site managers, experts and other key stakeholders of World Heritage cities from around the world for a discussion on the implementation of the HUL Recommendation in their cities. The technical sessions were organised according to the different time zones and language groups. Simultaneous translation into English was available in all sessions.

- Session 1, conducted in English, brought together participants from Asia and the Pacific.
- Session 2, held in French, focused on the Africa region.
- Session 3, carried out primarily in Spanish, focused on Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Session 4, conducted in English, brought together participants from Europe.
- Session 5 was held in French, gathering participants from the Arab States and Europe.
- Session 6 was carried out primarily in English with Spanish translation, welcoming participants from Europe, North and Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Each session was chaired by a regional expert and opened by the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar. After the session chair had introduced the topic and case studies, site managers and representatives from local authorities presented a variety of case studies on urban heritage management and preservation. In the last section, participants were invited to discuss amongst themselves and reflect on the case studies and presentations. The discussions were also animated by an interactive online board where participants could write their comments. Finally, the Rapporteur was responsible for bringing together all the points raised and sharing their takeaways.

By the numbers



6

regional sessions



19

case studies



13

experts



36

speakers



3

languages



613

registered
participants

Case studies

Africa

- Promoting cultural entrepreneurship in Ribeira Grande (Cidade Velha, Cabo Verde)
- Balancing development and conservation in Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)
- A new quarter for the Old Town of Djenné (Mali)
- Promoting local development through heritage conservation and tourism in the Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal)

Arab States

- Community-centred revitalization of Souq al-Silah in Cairo (Egypt)
- Towards the integrated management of Carthage (Tunisia)

Asia and the Pacific

- Consulting with community to understand heritage values during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne (Australia)
- Conservation and Revitalization Programme of Ancient City of Ping Yao (China)

Europe and North America

- Pedestrianization of historic streets and public spaces in Graz (Austria)
- Establishing a dialogue between site management and residents in the Historic Centre of Salzburg (Austria)
- Taking nature into account in the World Heritage Management plan of Strasbourg (France)
- Water and the city: enhancing the shared identity of Mantua and Sabbioneta (Italy)
- Developing sustainable rural tourism in San Gimignano (Italy)
- Literary tourism in the university town of Coimbra (Portugal)
- Community-led urban planning in Durham (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Edificio Tassara: A pilot project to rehabilitate a historical building as affordable housing and a community centre in Valparaíso (Chile)
- Integrated urban regeneration in the Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)
- Buffer zone for World Heritage Site "Historic Centre of Puebla" (Mexico)
- Local management system of the Historic Town of Guanajuato (Mexico)

Regional takeaways

Africa



Summary

At a glance

Cities

- Abomey (Benin) – Mr Kossi Antoine Louis Djedou
- Grand-Bassam (Cote d'Ivoire) – Mr Jean Louis Moulot
- Gorée (Senegal) – Mr Augustin Senghor
- Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) – Mr Solomon Mguni

Experts

- Session chair: Mr Souayibou Varissou (Executive Director, African World Heritage Fund)
- Rapporteur: Ms Ishanlosen Odiaua (Vice-President, ICOMOS Nigeria)

World Heritage Cities

- Of 320 World Heritage Cities, 14 are in the Africa region.

Case studies

- Balancing development and conservation in Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Promoting local development through heritage conservation and tourism in the Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal)
- The challenges of addressing rapid population growth around the Old Town of Djenné (Mali), and the development of a new district while conserving the ancient fabric of the earthen city
- Promoting cultural entrepreneurship in Ribeira Grande (Cidade Velha, Cabo Verde)

Technical Session 2

This session, with simultaneous translation English - French, focused on the African context. It was chaired by Mr Souayibou Varissou (Executive Director, African World Heritage Fund), while Ms Ishanlosen Odiaua (Vice-President, ICOMOS Nigeria) acted as rapporteur. After an introduction by Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre Jyoti Hosagrahar, who reprised her points on the 2011 HUL Recommendation, the session chair introduced key questions on how HUL has been implemented in the region's fast-growing cities.

These included the challenges of a wide range of management system and plans, insufficient housing, solid waste management issues, land conversion, the need for new transportation infrastructure, financial difficulties, civil unrest, war, and climate change-related issues such as water provision. He noted opportunities linked to the Modern Heritage of Africa programme's Modern Cities Network 2021 and raised the main topics for discussion: how to adapt heritage management to population growth and change over time; how it can contribute to sustainability and improving livelihoods; and finally, bringing more diversity of experiences to the table based on local contexts.

Case studies of four World Heritage cities were then presented. The first was on the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire), focused on balancing development and conservation. The second, by Mr Moustaph Ndiaye, Site Manager of the for Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal), on promoting local development through heritage conservation and tourism. The third case study, presented by Mr Moussa Moriba Diakate (Chef de la Mission Culturelle de Djenné) introduced a study of the Old Towns of Djenné (Mali), on the challenges of addressing rapid population growth and the development of a new district while conserving the ancient fabric of the city. The final case study presented by Mr Claudio Ramos (Site Manager), focused on Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande (Cabo Verde), and the role of promoting cultural entrepreneurship in heritage conservation.

Participants shared their remarks and questions online and in the discussion. Their main topics were summarized by the rapporteur, Ms Ishanlosen Odiaua (Vice-President, ICOMOS Nigeria). Ms Odiaua noted that for the urban spaces presented, where tradition and modernity exist side by side, World Heritage listing brings opportunities for development and conservation that would not otherwise have been possible. For some, this meant addressing the realities of Small Island Developing States: a lack of economic opportunities leading to the exodus of young people and vulnerability to natural disasters. In other cases, she noted, there is the ongoing challenge of ensuring seamless continuity between the growing urban periphery and historic centres. HUL can be used to capture the visions these communities have for their spaces and how their lived, urban realities can be taken up by the relevant authorities.

Ms Odiaua also noted the importance of not putting too much pressure on cities' resources, bearing in mind the crucial role of sustainable development for local communities. HUL helps consider urban space as a multifaceted human fabric that can help develop historic centres into places for livelihoods, not just for tourism. Finally, human interventions can actually make coastal sites more vulnerable to climate change. The impact of such measures needs to be better studied and measured (with HUL as part of the process) to ensure long-term sustainability.

Watch the recording
of the session

Key learnings

Shared themes were drawn from cities across the Africa region, each bringing its own set of challenges and opportunities.

1. On the issue of governance of World Heritage properties in urban contexts, the HUL case studies provided evidence of a holistic, intersectoral approach to urban heritage management that addresses:

- The challenge of strengthening the role of local governments in the management of historic cities in Africa, and the difficulties of stakeholder engagement
- The opportunity to promote and strengthen partnerships with multiple actors, including civil society
- The opportunity to integrate conservation concerns with urban planning and other relevant sectors

2. On the issues of inclusion and a people-centred approach, the following points were drawn from the case studies:

- Opportunities exist for economic diversification through branding, innovation and creation of new urban identities and new forms of expression through the fusion of different cultures, and the application of digital technologies. There is a strong potential of urban heritage to contribute positively to livelihoods and the quality of life of local communities. Enhancing urban identities and enthusiasm for heritage can be done using digital technologies to engage young people and promote traditional knowledge at the same time.
- This reveals challenges in building a critical mass of heritage enthusiasts, through enhanced understanding of heritage qualities and participative management
- The need to consider residents' requirements in conservation and development efforts, improve the quality of life of residents through heritage conservation and maintain traditional knowledge structures

3. With regard to conserving urban places, the case studies highlighted issues for the Africa region related to integrating tradition with modernity and new development with historic areas:

- The challenges of preserving historic centres by promoting and reviving traditional construction techniques
- The opportunities to preserve the layers of history and build on historic models of public meeting spaces to encourage social cohesion

4. Finally, on the question of how to make World Heritage part of the drive towards greener and more resilient cities:

- The cases highlighted the need for, and challenges of, disaster risk reduction and climate action
- The opportunity to do so by greening public spaces, developing resilient infrastructure and piloting innovative actions to enhance resilience

Africa - visual summary of discussions

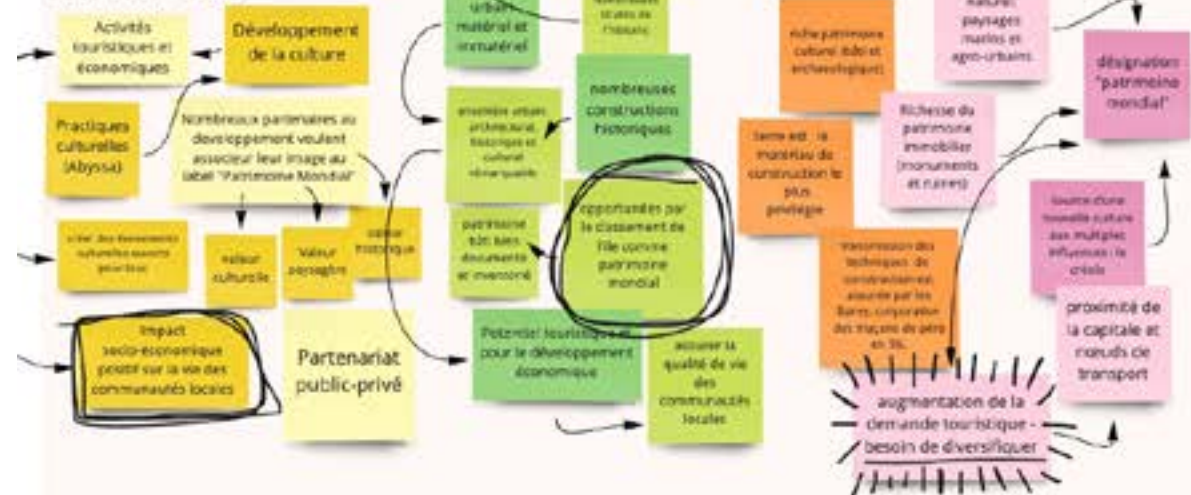
Common themes / thèmes communs



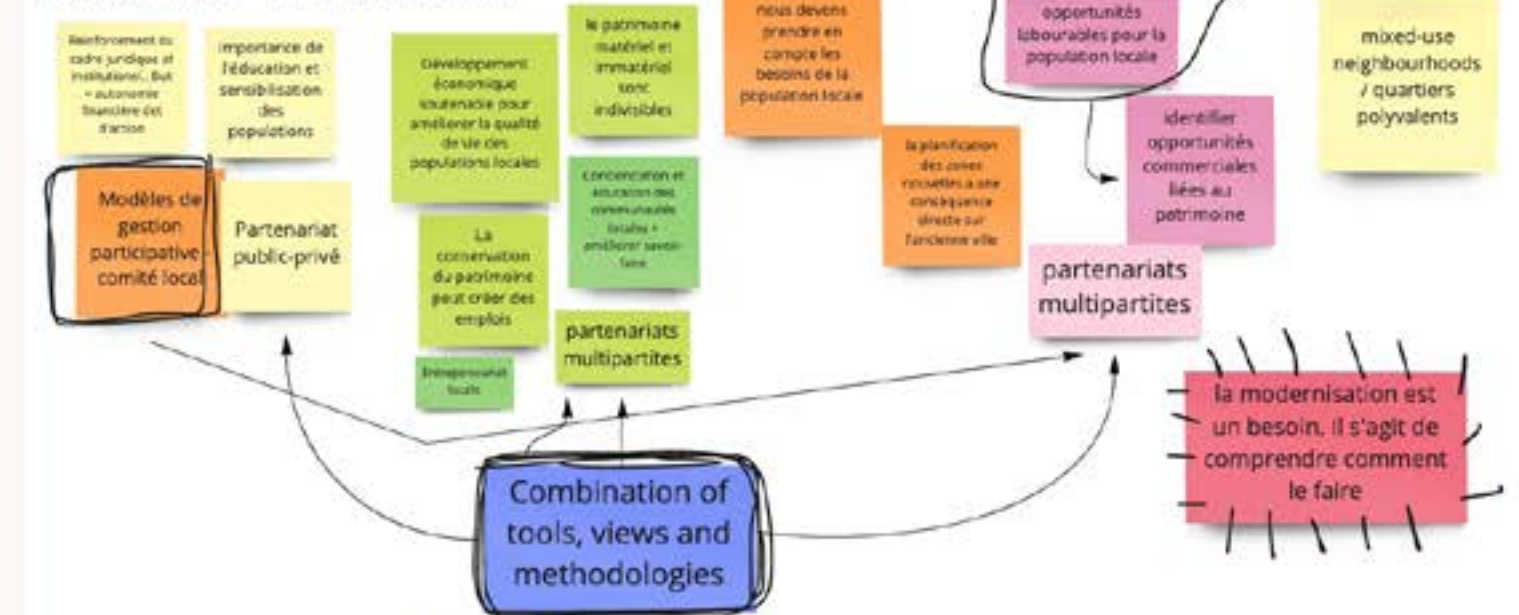
Challenges



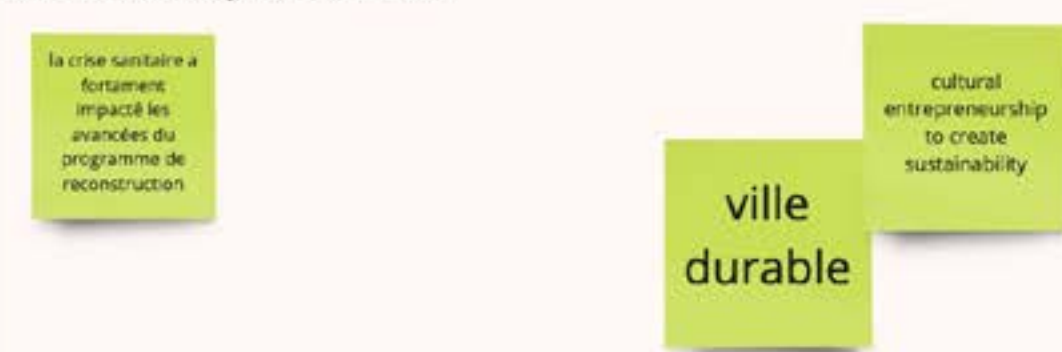
Opportunities



Lessons learnt - the future of HUL.



COVID-19 Recovery and resilience



Climate change

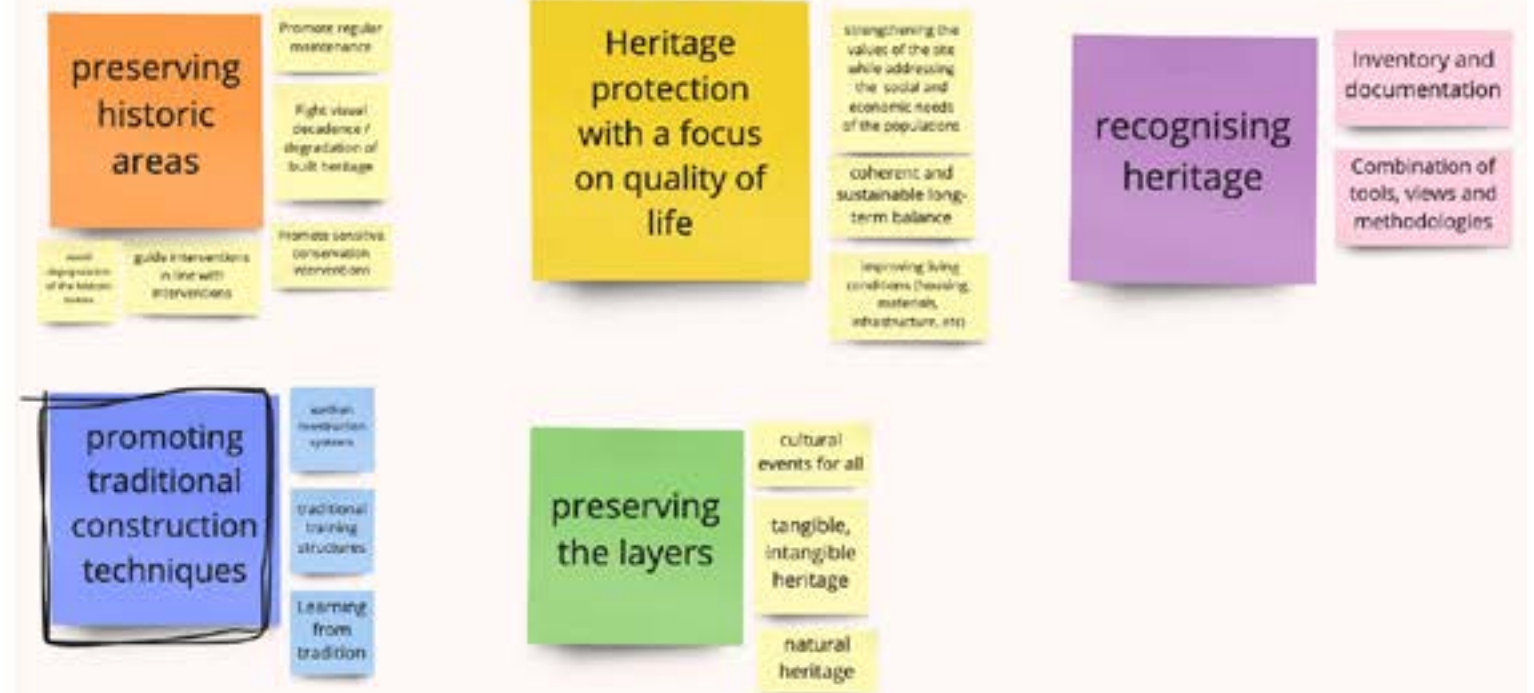


Africa - key themes

Governance - Gouvernance



Conserving urban places - Préserver les espaces urbains



Including people - Inclure les gens



Green and resilient - Vert et résilient



Case studies

Promoting cultural entrepreneurship in Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande (Cabo Verde)

A wide-ranging programme aims to build capacity amongst local residents to understand the potentials offered by cultural heritage, by supporting and enhancing local cultural entrepreneurship.

The initiative includes a wide range of actions, from capacity building and project development to financial and marketing support. It is developed by a consortium of partners including national and local government, institutes, NGOs and community associations.



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World Heritage Site Management Office

Presentation by Mr Claudio Ramos, site manager of the World Heritage property “Ribeira Grande, Historic Centre of Cidade Velha”.

About the city of Ribeira Grande

Ribeira Grande de Santiago is located in the southern end of the island of Santiago, 12 kilometres from Praia, in the archipelago of Cabo Verde. The town has a population of just under 1,300 inhabitants and a surface of approximately 200 hectares. It comprises the World Heritage site of Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande. The property was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2009 under criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi).

The World Heritage site counts with a number of challenges and opportunities, as reported by the site manager. On the one hand, the proximity to the capital and airport and the richness of cultural heritage create valuable opportunities for tourism-based development. On the other hand, it is necessary to carefully manage this increasing touristic pressure, and diversify the tourism offer, avoid mass tourism and control inflation. The cultural and tourism sectors are weakly connected, and local NGOs are not well organised. Finally, the city has seen an exodus of the local population, especially the youth, and schooling levels remain low.

Cidade Velha is part of the Japan-funded project “Post COVID-19 World Heritage Site Management: Integration of Conservation, Tourism and Local Livelihood Strategies at World Heritage Sites”. The objective for Cidade Velha is to empower the local communities, associations and SMEs through their involvement in the valorisation of the cultural heritage of the city.

Cultural entrepreneurship programme

In Ribeira Grande, a new programme aims to promote cultural entrepreneurship on-site, harness the potential of cultural heritage to contribute to local livelihoods and respond to the local economic and social conditions.

The programme aims to respond to the high unemployment rates amongst the local population, and the low level of awareness about the potential of cultural heritage to support local livelihoods. The strategic goals are:

- Support local entrepreneurship, enhancing cultural heritage's potential for local livelihoods;
- Build capacity amongst local populations regarding the commercial opportunities linked to the cultural heritage resources of Cidade Velha;
- Reinforce and diversify the touristic offer;
- Identify entrepreneurial profiles, underlining the strong points and areas to be improved; and
- Identify and develop commercial and livelihood opportunities adapted to market needs.

In order to achieve these goals, the programme includes a wide range of actions, from capacity building and project development to financial and marketing support, such as creating a certified origin seal for products created on-site and organizing product expositions. The actions are developed and implemented by a consortium of partners, including:

- The National Institute for Cultural Heritage (Instituto do Património Cultural), who focuses on capacity building;
- Research centre CitiHabitat;
- Institute for Business Support and Promotion Pro-Empresa;
- Women's development association Morabi: Associação Cabo-verdiana de auto-promoção de Mulher;
- The Municipal Chamber of Ribeira Grande de Santiago, who supports the project development on-site, and
- The local community association.

The project started in July 2019 and is expected to continue until December 2021. It has an approximate cost of 150,000 escudos (USD 1,580 as of October 2021), funded through different projects as well as commercial activities linked to tourism. It learnt from previous creative entrepreneurship initiatives, including the 2014 UNESCO project "Cidade Velha: Creative Economies, World Heritage, Youth Entrepreneurship and Tourism".

The programme is mainly directed towards female heads of household, providing an alternative to pellet mining, an intensive economic activity that negatively impacts the well-being of the women who engage in it. In total, 17 women took place in the activities.

As a result, the site manager reports that participants are able to identify key business opportunities in cultural tourism and understand the importance of the entrepreneur's profile in the success of the business. Overcoming challenges such as lack of organisation and financial resources, and resistance to new technologies, the programme aims to build capacity amongst the local populations to understand the potentials offered by cultural heritage, supporting and enhancing sustainable local economic development.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Balancing development and conservation in Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)

The inscription of the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam on the World Heritage List has provided new opportunities to promote sustainable development in the city. From the creation of a local World Heritage management office to the development of cultural tourism and private-public partnerships, a wide range of initiatives aim to strike a balance between conservation needs and local livelihoods.



© Archives MPC

Presentation by Mr DJAKO Romaric, site manager of the World Heritage property "Historic Town of Grand-Bassam".

About Grand-Bassam

Grand-Bassam is a city in southeastern Côte d'Ivoire, in the region of Sud-Comoé. The city is located in a narrow strip of land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ouladine lagoon. The first capital of Côte d'Ivoire, the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, is an example of a late 19th- and early 20th-century colonial town planned with quarters specialising in commerce, administration, housing for Europeans and for Africans. The site includes the N'zima African fishing village alongside colonial architecture marked by functional houses with galleries, verandas and gardens. Grand-Bassam was the first port, economic and judicial capital of Côte d'Ivoire. It bears witness to the complex social and spatial relations between Europeans and Africans, and to the subsequent independence movement. As a vibrant centre of the territory of French trading posts in the Gulf of Guinea, which preceded modern Côte d'Ivoire, it attracted populations from all parts of Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean Levant. (Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

The Historic Town of Grand-Bassam was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2012 under criteria (iii) and (iv). The State of Conservation Reports presented to the World Heritage Committee between 2013 and 2021 highlight issues related to the management and legal frameworks, which suffer from insufficient human and financial resources.

Additionally, the strategic geographical location of the historic city between the lagoon and the ocean makes it especially vulnerable to natural disasters. In October 2019, heavy rainfall led to overflowing in the Comoé River and its tributaries (Ebrié and Ouladine lagoons), causing flooding in the village of N'zima and producing substantial material damages. The State of Conservation report by the State Party following the 2019 floods can be accessed [here](#). In response, Cote d'Ivoire put in place a crisis management system, relocating the affected populations, providing them with support and food assistance, and requesting the organization of a UNESCO emergency mission.

Finding a balance between development and conservation

The inscription of the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam on the World Heritage List has provided new opportunities to promote sustainable development in the city. On the one hand, the listing has led to heightened standards in terms of site management, legal frameworks and community engagement. On the other hand, the city has now access to additional technical and economic support and its attractiveness as a tourist destination has greatly increased. This has created a unique opportunity to promote sustainable economic development and contribute to local livelihoods. Despite this positive context, grey areas remain. Therefore, the improvement of the management of the site became of utmost importance.

In order to improve the World Heritage management and legal frameworks and promote sustainable development, a diverse programme of initiatives has been developed. The programme aims to strike a balance between the conservation and enhancement of the heritage values of the site and the social and economic needs of residents.

1. Reinforcement of the legal and institutional framework

The Ivorian Ministry of Culture is currently developing an update of the World Heritage conservation and management plan of the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, with the support of UNESCO and funding by the Government of Norway. The update process has brought together all stakeholders involved in the management of the property. The new conservation and management plan aims to reinforce the capacities of the local World Heritage Management office and improve its financial and operational autonomy.

Additionally, the State of Côte d'Ivoire is in process of reviewing Law n. 87-806 of 28 July 1987 concerning the protection of cultural heritage in order to improve globally the protection of intangible, archaeological and underwater cultural heritage, and establish penal sanctions. In parallel to this initiative, Côte d'Ivoire is carrying out a project to revise the texts concerning the organisation of local World Heritage management institutions in order to enhance their performance.

2. Improving community involvement in World Heritage management

In order to promote community involvement in World Heritage management, a local World Heritage management office was created by the national authorities. The World Heritage Management office is known as Secrétariat Exécutif du Programme de Gestion de la Ville historique de Grand-Bassam or Maison du Patrimoine Culturel de Grand-Bassam. This office is supported by local management entities, including a Local Management Committee and a Commission in charge of examining and issuing building approvals. The local management entities are composed of political, administrative, traditional and religious authorities, as well as representatives of local associations and businesses, who participate jointly in the decision-making process. This participative process aims to increase the involvement, connection and sense of responsibility of stakeholders and local communities with respect to the management of the site.

3. Awareness-raising and educational activities

The World Heritage management office carries out guided visits for different publics in order to raise awareness and educate about the heritage values of the site. Special attention is paid to children and teenagers, who participate in special guided tours and educational workshops in schools. At the same time, conferences and thematic exhibitions are organised each year on 18 April, on the occasion of International Day of Monuments and Sites.

4. Development of cultural tourism

The inscription of the site on the World Heritage List has increased Grand-Bassam's attractiveness as a touristic destination, both for domestic and international visitors. Consequently, there is an opportunity to develop infrastructures and services linked to tourism, such as accommodation, hotels, restauration, transportation, touristic guides and traditional handcrafting. If properly managed, sustainable tourism can greatly contribute to local livelihoods and economic development.

In this context, a framework of private-public partnerships (PPP) is currently being developed with the support of the National Committee for Pilot Public-Private Partnerships and the African Development Bank. PPPs are especially envisaged for publicly owned real estate which are suitable for this kind of development but will also be open for privately owned assets. It is expected that PPPs will lead to the development of touristic infrastructure in the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, in a way that respects the conservation and management goals of the site and that contributes to local livelihoods. The reuse of historical buildings for new functions, such as hotels or galleries, will also be promoted. Finally, the Tutorat project has established a programme for emphyteutic leases, through which commercial operators can obtain long-term leases on private buildings in exchange of their restauration or rehabilitation.

5. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

The 2019 floods evidence the vulnerability of the city towards natural disasters and climate change. In order to reduce and manage disaster risks, the World Heritage management office is developing a risk management plan, which will be incorporated in the updated World Heritage management plan. The National Office for Cultural Heritage carried out two thematic workshops in 2015 and 2021, with support from UNESCO.

At the same time, it is essential to strengthen the resilience of local and vulnerable populations to natural disasters, in particular, by building the capacity of the World Heritage management body and local communities in disaster risk management. This capacity building must also take into account the endogenous principles of disaster management of local communities, in order to minimise their human, social and economic impacts. After the 2019 floods, the local N'zima community engaged in the customary crisis management processes through traditional leaders such as the priestesses and warriors of the king, through traditional rituals to ward off bad luck. This process strengthened the community's capacity to respond to the crisis, seen in continuity with a long history of natural disasters in Grand-Bassam.

The inscription of a site in the World Heritage List creates unique opportunities for local development. However, achieving sustainable development after World Heritage listing is no easy task, and requires an integrated programme of wide-ranging actions, from physical heritage conservation to educational and awareness-raising programmes and funding, planning, legal and management frameworks. The case study of the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam shows that continuous engagement and dedication is needed to fully harness the potential of cultural heritage to contribute to sustainable development. Additionally, innovative initiatives such as the development of private-public partnerships and emphyteutic leases provides an insight into the wide range of tools available to carry out this vision. According to the site managers of the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam, sustainable urban development and heritage conservation are two complementary goals, which can mutually benefit and complement each other as part of integrated urban development programmes.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

A new quarter for the Old Town of Djenné (Mali)

The ancient city of Djenné is a fast growing city whose historic fabric is suffering under intense population pressures. In order to find a sustainable solution, the local authorities are looking at different solutions, including the planning of a new district outside of the historic city.



Author: Thierry Joffroy © CRA-terre

Presentation by Mr Moussa Moriba Diakate, Chief of the Cultural Mission of Djenné.

About the city of Djenné

Djenné, chief town of the Djenné Circle, located 130 km south-west of Mopti (the regional capital) and roughly 570 km north-east of Bamako (the national capital), is one of the oldest towns of sub-Saharan Africa. The old fabric of the present town of Djenné covering an area of 48.5 ha and divided into ten districts. The property is an ensemble that over many years has symbolised the typical African city. It is also particularly representative of Islamic architecture in sub-Saharan Africa. (Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

Djenné: challenges of a growing city

The proposal concerns an expansion of the city to lower development pressures on the listed area and to move some residents to the outer areas of the city. In this way, the local authorities want to provide a response to some of the requirements of local populations regarding, amongst others, access to modern amenities such as plumbing and sewage, and the construction of buildings in concrete.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr Muhammad Juma, Chief of the Africa Unit at the World Heritage Centre, agreed that it was necessary to plan for the expansion of the city. However, he highlighted the need to find a way to compromise by incorporating the old and new neighbourhoods, so that they continue to have a similar identity and are integrated in a harmonious manner. He also called for more involvement of different stakeholders and community engagement in the planning process, and for a better connection between management plans and spatial planning.

Watch the presentation
and discussions (VO)

Watch the translation
(English)

Promoting local development through heritage conservation and tourism on the Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal)

After the World Heritage Committee warned in 2016 that the poor state of conservation of the property could lead to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, a number of local, national and international partners have gotten together to devise a comprehensive heritage conservation programme which aims to improve the state of conservation of the property while promoting sustainable local development and tourism.

As a consequence of the progressive implementation of this plan, the Committee decided not to inscribe the Island of Saint-Louis in the List of World Heritage in Danger.



© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

Presentation by Mr Moustaph Ndiaye, site manager of the World Heritage site “Island of Saint-Louis”.

About the city of Saint-Louis

The Island of Saint-Louis is located in the heart of the city of the same name, in the north of Senegal, approximately 270 km from the capital, Dakar. The Island of Saint-Louis was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2000 under criteria (ii) and (iv).

Founded as a French colonial settlement in the 17th century, Saint-Louis was urbanised in the mid-19th century. It was the capital of Senegal from 1872 to 1957 and played an important cultural and economic role in the whole of West Africa. The location of the island at the mouth of the Senegal River, its town planning layout, its quays, and the characteristic architecture give Saint-Louis its distinctive appearance and identity. (Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

The built fabric of the Island of Saint-Louis includes both historical buildings from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and more recent constructions of domestic character. Even though numerous inventories and studies have documented its built heritage, conservation works have been scarce. Rising damp and limited economic resources of building owners are contributing to an accelerated degradation of the built fabric, with 59% of buildings in an average, bad or dangerous state of conservation. At the same time, a lack of general awareness about the heritage values of the property and insufficient building monitoring mechanisms have resulted in improper additions and interventions.

The inclusion of the site on the World Heritage List has aided the implementation of a number of tools to improve the conservation and management of the site. These include an exhaustive inventory (2004), a Conservation and Enhancement Plan, perform-

ing the functions of the management plan (2006) and the creation of a safeguarding committee who brings together all stakeholders involved in the management of urban heritage. In 2012, the Government of Senegal, in collaboration with the public administration and civil society, organised an inter-ministerial council for the safeguarding of the Island of Saint-Louis.

According to the site manager, the conservation of the city's rich cultural heritage remains a pressing challenge. Between 2005 and 2021, several State of Conservation reports were presented to the World Heritage Committee, and Reactive Monitoring Missions were carried out in 2009, 2014 and 2017. In 2016, the World Heritage Committee warned that the lack of significant progress in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee and the reactive monitoring mission were putting the property in "specific and proven imminent danger" (Decision 40 COM 7B.18). The Committee added that, in absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, it would consider the possibility to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 41st session in 2017.

Promoting local development through heritage conservation and enhancement and tourism

In response to the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee and addressing the rapid degradation of the cultural heritage of the city, a Tourism Development Programme, including a detailed heritage conservation and promotion programme, has been implemented thanks to a collaboration with the State of Senegal and the French Development Agency (AFD). Started in 2012, the project was relanced in 2018, and is expected to run until September 2023. It has a total budget of 24,5 million euros. The Tourism Development Programme is developed and implemented by a consortium of partners including:

- National Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Large Works (APIX): project management and coordination as designated project manager
- Ministry of Culture (Directorate of Cultural Heritage): rehabilitation of public buildings, as the designated project manager for the rehabilitation of public buildings.
- Municipality of Saint Louis: the designated project manager for the rehabilitation of public spaces, improvement of solid waste management and renovation of privately-owned buildings (in collaboration with building owners).
- Syndicat d'Initiative – Tourism Office: designated project manager for the support programme for tourism actors.
- Chamber of crafts: designated project manager for the reconstruction of the artisanal village and capacity reinforcement amongst craftspeople.

The main goal of the programme is to promote sustainable social and economic development in the region of the Senegal river, and especially in its urban centre, Saint-Louis. At the same time, the initiative aims to improve the habitability and environmental sustainability of the city and revitalise the local traditional arts and crafts.

The programme consists of five key areas of action:

1. Conservation and rehabilitation of built heritage: the project includes 118 private buildings, as well as five historical monuments: the Cathedral of Saint-Louis; Gouvernance de Saint-Louis; Rogniat Sud; the Maison des Soeurs de Saint-Joseph de Cluny (a former nunnery which will become the Maison du Patrimoine), and Khayar Mbengue School (former School des Otages).



Signature of partnership and delegation agreements between the Town Hall, the Banque de l'Habitat du Senegal and APIX for the private heritage rehabilitation project © APIX

2. Rehabilitation of public spaces: the project aims to beautify and enhance the urban heritage; improve the liveability of the historic areas for different user groups; and reorganise the different functions of the public spaces, to include events, walking, vehicle circulation or tourism.

3. Improvement of the solid waste management system: a new building for the Municipal Department of Technical Services will be constructed, and new equipment will allow the collection and transportation of solid waste in separate categories.

4. Reinforcing the touristic offer: a range of different actions are planned, including:

- Improvements to workspaces and infrastructure in craft and tourism businesses, in order to improve the working conditions of craftspeople.
- Capacity building and strengthening of stakeholders and actors in the tourism and crafts sector.
- Coaching sessions to enhance the quality of local artisanal production.

5. Creating jobs: the site manager reports that more than 400 temporary jobs will be created during the project implementation. After its completion, the programme is expected to result in the creation of more than 800 permanent positions.

The project includes a community and stakeholder engagement programme involving the creation of several committees for project piloting, follow-up and management; regular meetings, workshops and discussion groups with building owners and urban actors; socio-economic surveys and development of partnerships with local associations and learning centres.

The main challenges faced during the implementation of the project relate to the coordination between the different stakeholders and initiatives which are implemented in parallel. For example, the upgrade of the waste management system requires a strong

coordination between different departments and disciplines. In order to address this issue, the National Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Large Works (APIX) was designated as the project manager and contracting authority. Additionally, the lack of information, communication and awareness about issues related to cultural heritage and sustainable development remains a major challenge. To address this problem, the project team has devised a communication strategy on four directions: institutional, public relations, social and digital. Finally, the site manager has highlighted the negative effects of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, which has hindered the development of the project and delayed its implementation.

While the project is still under way and suffering from delays in its implementation, a number of important actions have already been implemented as of June 2021. For instance, the Municipality of Saint-Louis, the Senegalese Bank for Habitat (Banque de l'Habitat du Sénégal), the National Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Large Works (APIX) and private building owners have signed a partnership agreement to promote the conservation of privately owned buildings.

In addition, an Emergency Fund for the Safeguarding of the Architectural Heritage of Saint-Louis, pooling the financial contributions of the State and the private sector, was set up in 2018 and included in the draft budget of the State Programme of Priority Actions 2019-2023 (see the 2019 State of Conservation report).

At the same time, a number of interventions in the historic fabric have already been carried out, including the rehabilitation of the cathedral and some public spaces and streets in the touristic areas.

As a consequence, the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd Session noted with satisfaction the efforts made by Senegal to implement the previous recommendations made by the Committee and the reactive monitoring missions (Decision 43 COM 7B.110) and ruled out the inscription of the property in the World Heritage List in Danger.

Following the rehabilitation of the cathedral and the Heritage House, the State of Conservation of the site was once again examined by the World Heritage Committee in its 44th Session. The Committee expressed their satisfaction with the efforts made by Senegal, as well as for the effective governance of the property and the fund-raising efforts. Additionally, the Committee requested additional documentation and Heritage Impact Assessments for ongoing and future projects which might impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Taking into account the many major projects underway or under preparation at the property and the significant ongoing transformations, the Committee requested the deployment of a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property before the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2023 (Decision 44 COM 7B.120).

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Regional takeaways

Arab States



Summary

At a glance

Cities

- Beirut (Lebanon) – Ms Matilda Khoury, Councillor to the Mayor of Beirut City,
- Carthage (Tunisia) – Ms Hayet Bayoudh, Mayor

Experts

- Session chair: Mr Papa Abdoulaye Sy (Global Lead for Urban Development, Islamic Development Bank)
- Rapporteur: Ms Imane Bennani (Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat, Morocco)

World Heritage Cities

Of the 320 World Heritage Cities, 33 are in the Arab States.

Case studies

- Community-centred revitalization of Souq al-Silah, Cairo (Egypt)
- Towards the integrated management of the city-site of Carthage (Tunisia)

Technical Session 3

The francophone session, focused on the Arab States, was chaired by Mr Papa Abdoulaye Sy (Global Lead for Urban Development, Islamic Development Bank). Ms Imane Bennani (Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat) acted as rapporteur.

Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, opened the session by briefly summarizing the principles of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and the activities of the World Heritage Centre (programmes, laboratories, etc.) with reference to the Agenda 2030.

The session chair, Mr Papa Abdoulaye Sy introduced some of the issues and questions to be addressed. Highlighting work done by the Islamic Development Bank in Muharraq, Bahrain to improve living conditions and stabilize the local population in the historic centre, he cited challenges including securing owner approval at the initial stage of implementation, lack of capacity and expertise, and difficult procurement procedures characteristic of the region. Other factors to consider included alignment with urban planning strategies at the macro level and local economic development plans, the involvement of the private sector, proper project design, planning and implementation, effective community engagement for ownership and sustainability purposes, and the need to engage specialists and have an overall strategy for communicating on the project.

Next, three case studies of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List were presented, two in the Arab States and one in Europe. These three cases illustrate several inspiring approaches to the preservation and conservation of HUL, each adapted to its specific context.

The first example concerns the city of Strasbourg in France, and deals with the consideration of nature and green space in the Strasbourg Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan. The case study was presented by Ms Cathy Muller, Head of the Building Police Department, Strasbourg. The second case study presented was that of Historic Cairo in Egypt, shared by Mr Alaa El-Habashi, on the subject of community-centred revitalization of the Souq al-Silah through raising involvement and awareness, and by developing partnerships for actions such as the creation of a community centre. Mr Mouid Hani then shared a case study on the Archaeological Site of Carthage, Tunisia, concerning the integrated conservation of the city-site of Carthage.

Following these examples, online interactions and questions, session rapporteur Ms Imane Bennani (Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat) summarized the discussions.

- For Cairo, it was key to combine tangible and intangible heritage to support community gatherings, equality in population involvement and local businesses support.
- Carthage faced inadequate management and conservation plans for the site, which highlighted the importance of integrating heritage and buffer zones, city neighbourhoods and the needs of local communities.

Watch the recording of
the session (English)

Watch the recording of
the session (French)

Key learnings

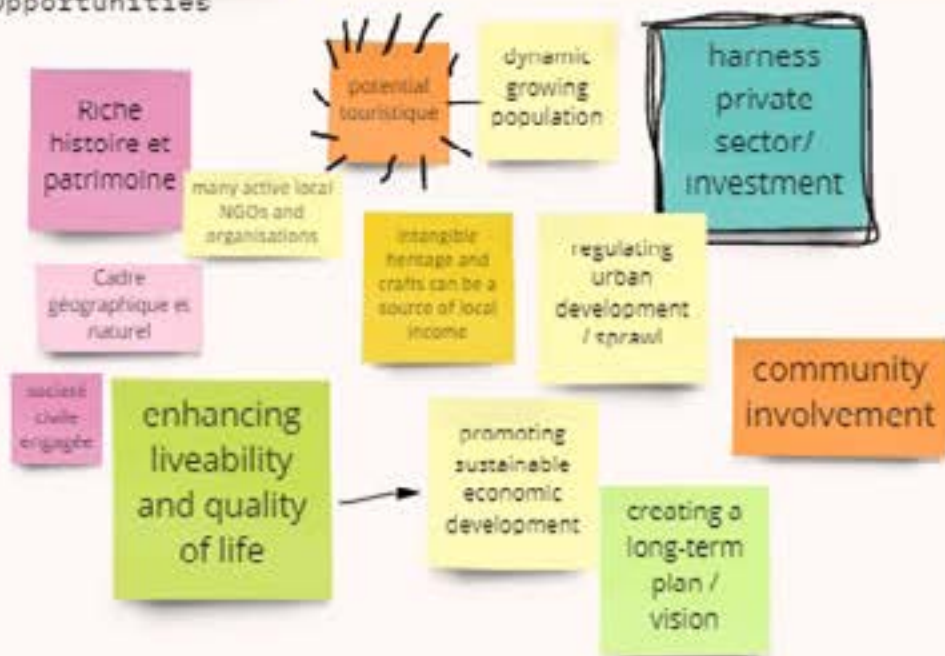
- The importance of thinking of the HUL Approach as a holistic and integrated approach to urban improvement.
- The importance of legal and regulatory tools for sustainable preservation and management plans for listed sites. Evidence- and data-driven policies are possible and desirable thanks to new technologies.
- Preservation projects must be designed with the local community to ensure their sustainability. The population must be involved in the decision-making process and at the same time must be allowed to improve their living environment by creating socio-economic dynamics. This means allowing the local community to reconnect with and reappropriate its tangible and intangible heritage. Community-based planning and citizen engagement lead to better heritage conservation outcomes and strengthen local communities' spirit and identity. Sustainable living and local identity are linked: only a permanently inhabited city can be resilient.
- Project financing is key, especially in the Arab States, where local and state governments are not necessarily able to provide funding for projects. Thus, private sector involvement is key. HUL references on this point and best practices are extremely useful.
- Investment should not lead to gentrification caused by tourism: buildings should be designed for locals to live in as a means to promote their activities and economy. For this to happen, sociocultural development needs to be perceived and implemented as a political decision.
- The development of partnerships and the involvement of different sectors, including the private sector, will also take into account the sustainability of funding, which systematically creates new challenges of governance, management and coordination that must be anticipated.
- There is a need to integrate the various layers of heritage in the preservation process (the built environment, the natural and vegetal landscape, the urban landscape, etc.). The relationship between the city and its natural environment and surrounding landscape is essential.
- Targeted and participatory awareness and communication strategies need to be implemented to liaise with the public and stakeholders.
- Finally, the importance of integrating the notion of risk management in the management of HUL, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, for resilient and sustainable cities.

Arab States - visual summary of discussions

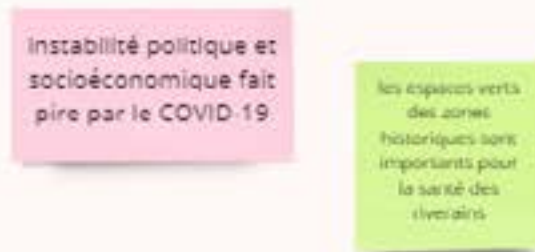
Common themes / thèmes communs



Opportunities



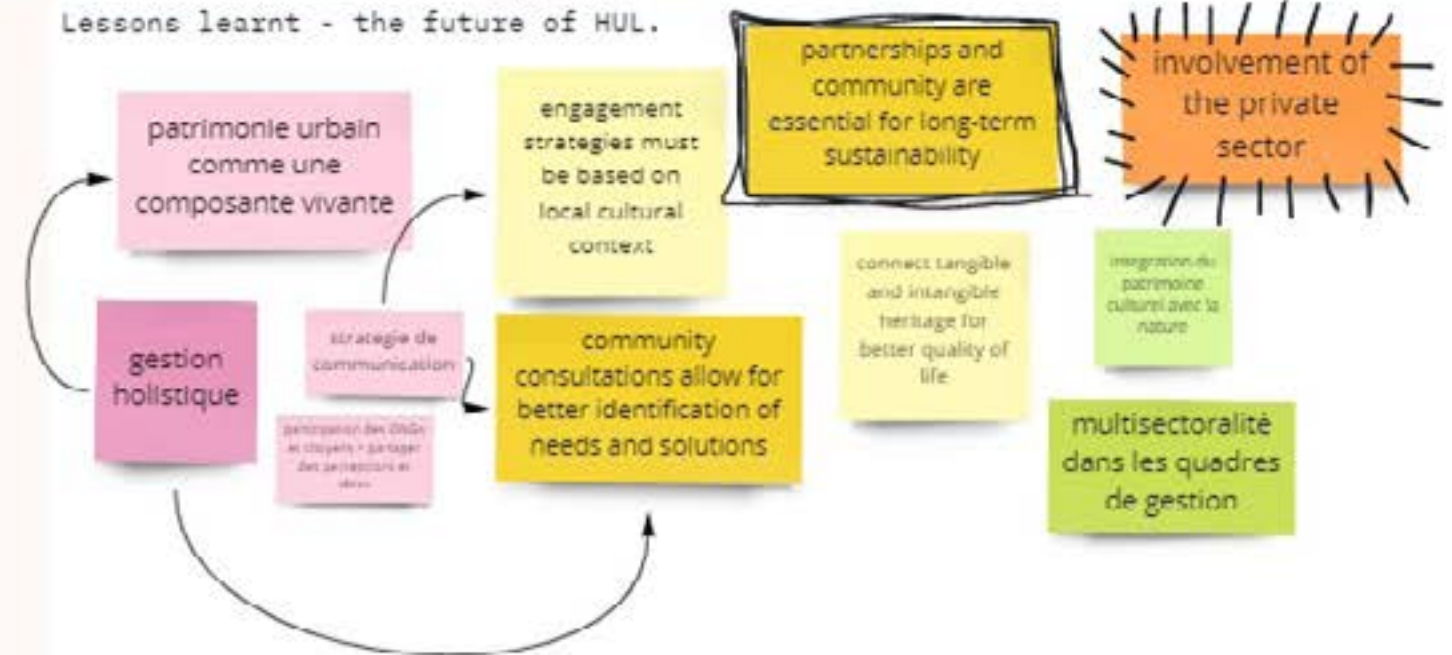
COVID-19 Recovery and resilience



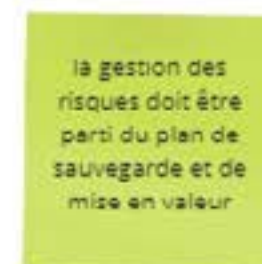
Challenges



Lessons learnt - the future of HUL.



Climate change



Arab States - key themes

Governance - Gouvernance



Conserving urban places - Préserver les espaces urbains



Including people - Inclure les gens



Green and resilient - Vert et résilient



Case studies

Community-centred revitalisation of Souq al-Silah in Cairo (Egypt)

A long-standing project has been working to revitalise a commercial street in the historic district of Darb al-Ahmar and reconnect the local community with their cultural heritage. The project, developed with help from the Research Station of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, consists of awareness-raising and training workshops, the creation of a community centre and the development of local partnerships.



Presentation by Prof Mr Alaa El-Habash, professor of architecture and heritage conservation, and chair of the Department of Architecture, Menoufia University.

About Cairo

Tucked away amid the modern urban area of Cairo lies the World Heritage property of Historic Cairo. Historic Cairo was inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1979 under criteria (i), (v) and (vi). The property's area expands over 523.66 ha.

Cairo is one of the world's oldest Islamic cities, with its famous mosques, madrasas, hammams and fountains. Founded in the 10th century, it became the new centre of the Islamic world, reaching its golden age in the 14th century. Source: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

The State of Conservation Reports for the property (1993-2019) highlight ongoing concerns regarding housing, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community, lack of functioning management systems, rain/water table, dilapidated infrastructure and neglect and lack of maintenance. UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies have carried out over 30 missions since the time of listing. Between 1993 and 2019, 20 State of Conservation reports have been presented to the World Heritage Committee.

According to the Decisions adopted by the Committee in 2019, progress was being made, in conformity with its previous recommendations, in implementing measures and projects for mitigating the rapid deterioration of the property and controlling development within the boundaries of the property.

Community-centred revitalisation of Souq al-Silah

The community-centred revitalisation of Souq al-Silah is a long-standing project to reinvigorate the identity and heritage values of this historic street in the district of Darb al-Ahmar and reconnect the local community with their cultural heritage. The project is developed by the Research Station of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. The initiative aims to raise awareness about Historic Cairo's heritage values and promote their conservation while empowering the community to take ownership of their cultural heritage and harness its potential to drive local development.

The historic district of Darb al-Ahmar is part of the World Heritage property of Historic Cairo. The neighbourhood has suffered profound cultural and social changes in the last decades, mostly due to modernisation, industrialisation and internal migration. These factors have led to a separation between the site's cultural heritage and the community that inhabits it. Historical public buildings, such as public baths, caravanserais and sabil-kuttab (water station and school) are increasingly in disuse. On the other hand, protected buildings are fenced and locked, often subject to vandalism.

In this context, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science developed a revitalisation program that aimed to encourage heritage protection through the use of historic buildings and to avoid imposing a particular perception of heritage.

Between 2016 and 2018, the project was funded by the Toyota Foundation, at the cost of approximately USD60,000. From May 2018 onwards, the project has been developed in collaboration with local partners, including:

1. National and regional governments: National Organisation for Urban Harmony (NOUH), Heritage Section of the Cairo Governorate, and the Ministry of Antiquities.
2. Local not-for-profit organisations, including the Nile Palace and the Friends of Historical and Public Gardens Society
3. International partners: Japan Foundation, Embassy of Japan in Egypt, Obayashi Foundation and the World Monument Fund.

Watch the recording of
the session (VO English)

Watch the recording of
the session (French)

Learn more on World
Heritage Canopy

Towards the integrated management of Carthage (Tunisia)

A long-standing project has been working to revitalise a commercial street in the historic district of Darb al-Ahmar and reconnect the local community with their cultural heritage. The project, developed with help from the Research Station of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, consists of awareness-raising and training workshops, the creation of a community centre and the development of local partnerships.



Presentation by Mr Mouid Hani, heritage expert, Tunisia, with the support of Ms Hayet Bayoudh, Mayor of the City of Carthage and Mr Boubaker Houmann, President of the UNESCO ALECSO Knowledge and Sustainable Development Club.

About Carthage

In the suburban area of Tunis, 15km from the capital, lies the World Heritage property of “Archaeological Site of Carthage”. The surface area of the municipality is 640 ha, of which 407 ha are classified archaeological area i.e. 63.5% of the municipality.

The Archaeological Site of Carthage was inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1979 under criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi). Carthage was founded in the 9th century B.C. on the Gulf of Tunis. From the 6th century onwards, it developed into a great trading empire covering much of the Mediterranean and was home to a brilliant civilization. In the course of the long Punic wars, Carthage occupied territories belonging to Rome, which finally destroyed its rival in 146 B.C. A second – Roman – Carthage was then established on the ruins of the first. The centre of the archaeological area is located on the Byrsa Hill overlooking the surrounding plain. The modern settlement was founded in the early 20th century. Source: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

The State of Conservation Reports for the property (2011-2021) highlight ongoing concerns regarding urban pressures, lack of functioning legal frameworks and management systems, and improper development. UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies have carried out over 15 missions since the time of listing. Between 1980 and 2001, 7 International Assistance requests were approved, for a total amount of 213,315 USD.

According to the Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2021, progress was being made. The Committee reiterated its request to “draft and implement a Management Plan to coordinate the management and conservation activities carried out at the property by the concerned stakeholders”, and urged the State Party to “consider the recommendations of the 2019 mission that included setting up communication strategies with local stakeholders, and reviewing legislative protection”.

Towards the integrated management of Carthage (Tunisia)

The Archaeological Site of Carthage has exceptional environmental and landscape assets, and benefits from several nearby institutions and a committed civil society, but unfortunately suffers from the lack of a management plan and gaps in legislation.

In addition, it has become more fragile with uncontrolled urbanization and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Socio-economic and land constraints (private land not acquired by the State) and the absence of a global approach hinder the preservation of the property. Protection laws are perceived by local people as “draconian” and “top-down”, and there is a certain tension between the site and the residents. The monuments are presented as an “archaeological archipelago”, a kind of “foreign body” in the city.

In response, representatives of civil society, local leaders and experts have created an Open Think Tank for the promotion and implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes. Urban heritage cannot be a static component but a “living value”. This is also what the last ICOMOS report for 2019 emphasised: “to consider the archaeological site of Carthage as a component of the urban landscape and as a holistically managed site”.

The site managers propose to make the natural and cultural heritage of Carthage an engine for the future development of the city, achieving the transition from a one-sided approach to a vision that promotes the historical heritage and the balance of cultural and natural values. Involving residents in the promotion and dissemination of the HUL concepts, including the use of new technologies and techniques, is also a key concern. These principles are being integrated in the preparation of the World Heritage Management plan and the Carthage Urban Development Plan.

Approach

1. Concerted evaluation of heritage conservation policies under the HUL Recommendation.
2. Training and support sessions under the supervision of Tunisian and foreign experts, notably UNESCO/ICOMOS.
3. Participatory mapping of the urban landscape of Carthage: natural geological stratification (coastline, hills, plain, etc.), historical and archaeological stratification of civilisations, and finally the modern city with its human-centred economic and urban fabric. This will create a balance between the ancient and the modern.
4. Implementation of a communication strategy, in particular through the integration of the media.
5. The results of this project will be published and updated on a website dedicated to the city of Carthage and on the municipality's website.

Watch the recording of
the session (English)

Watch the recording of
the session (VO French)

Regional takeaways

Asia and the Pacific



Summary

At a glance

Ministers

- Mr Nadiem Anwar Makarim, Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia

Cities

- Beijing (China) – Mr Chen Jining, Mayor
- Ahmedabad (India) – Mr Mukesh Kumar, Municipal Commissioner

Experts

- Session chair: Ms Elizabeth Vines (ICOMOS Australia)
- Rapporteur: Ms Shikha Jain (ICOMOS-ICOFORT, ICOMOS-IFLA)

World Heritage Cities

Of the 320 World Heritage Cities, 47 are in Asia and the Pacific region.

Case studies

- Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, Australia
- Ancient City of Ping Yao, China

Other cities in discussion

Ballart and Goldfields (Australia), Bukhara and Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Penang (Malaysia), Rawalpindi (Pakistan), Shanghai, Suzhou and Yangon (China), and Varanasi and Hyderabad (India).

Technical Session 1

The first technical session, focused on Asia and the Pacific region, was chaired by heritage expert Ms Elizabeth Vines (ICOMOS Australia). Ms Shikha Jain, Vice-President of ICOMOS-ICOFORT and expert member of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes acted as rapporteur.

The session opened with an introduction from the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, who gave an overview of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and the activities developed by UNESCO and its partners to promote its implementation.

Session chair Ms Elizabeth Vines opened the technical session on the Asia and Pacific region by noting that of the 320 World Heritage Cities, more than 40 are situated in the region, and they submitted 131 State of Conservation reports between 2017 and 2021. They collectively highlighted shared threats, including how to manage the impact of new development, respond to the urgency of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 'fit' of new development (infrastructure and new buildings, etc.), and the appropriateness of materials and techniques used in conservation. The Chair asked what we have learned from COVID and questioned how it changed the way we work and move in urban space.

Ms Hanna Fairbridge and Ms Amanda Bacon then presented the first case study of the session on the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, Australia, which focused on consulting with the community to understand heritage values at an urban World Heritage site. The second case study presented by Shao Yong addressed the Ancient City of Ping Yao, China and its Conservation and Revitalization Programme.

Participants then reflected on these cases and the implementation of HUL principles through an interactive poll. Key points raised included:

- The challenges of integrating contemporary design into the historic urban framework, as many cities now feature good design but out of context in the urban fabric; materials that are not congruent with the World Heritage property.
- The need to encourage master plans that promote adaptive and mixed reuse of industrial and historical buildings and only incorporate new design when it meets a specific need.
- In some cities, there is too much focus on restoring historical monuments and buildings in the wake of a disaster like an earthquake (specifically, the example of Kathmandu) and less attention paid to lived-in buildings, which leads to population flight from historic areas.

Rapporteur Ms Shikha Jain, summarized the session by noting the importance of bridging heritage and civic engagement to meet the needs of local communities. She noted that the case studies demonstrated (for Melbourne) the centrality of local community engagement in site management, reflecting residents' aspirations for future action, and (for Ping Yao) how to conserve the OUV of a site while also improving living conditions for residents. In the latter case, involving private owners was key for encouraging general awareness with educational activities and funding opportunities.

Watch the recording
of the session

Key learnings

Issues raised

- Human-centred strategies that integrate the goals of urban heritage conservation with those of social and economic development, as outlined in the HUL Recommendation.
- Localized implementation of the HUL Recommendation with a balanced use of HUL tools for civic engagement, planning, regulatory systems and finance.

Common challenges

- Civic engagement tools: the need to develop innovative tools and involve local residents
- Implementing regulatory tools: lack of awareness, lack of expertise, fast pace of change, and the complexity of living heritage
- Environment, climate, SDGs: how to best address climate change, the perception of modern vs traditional infrastructure, and managing data sources.

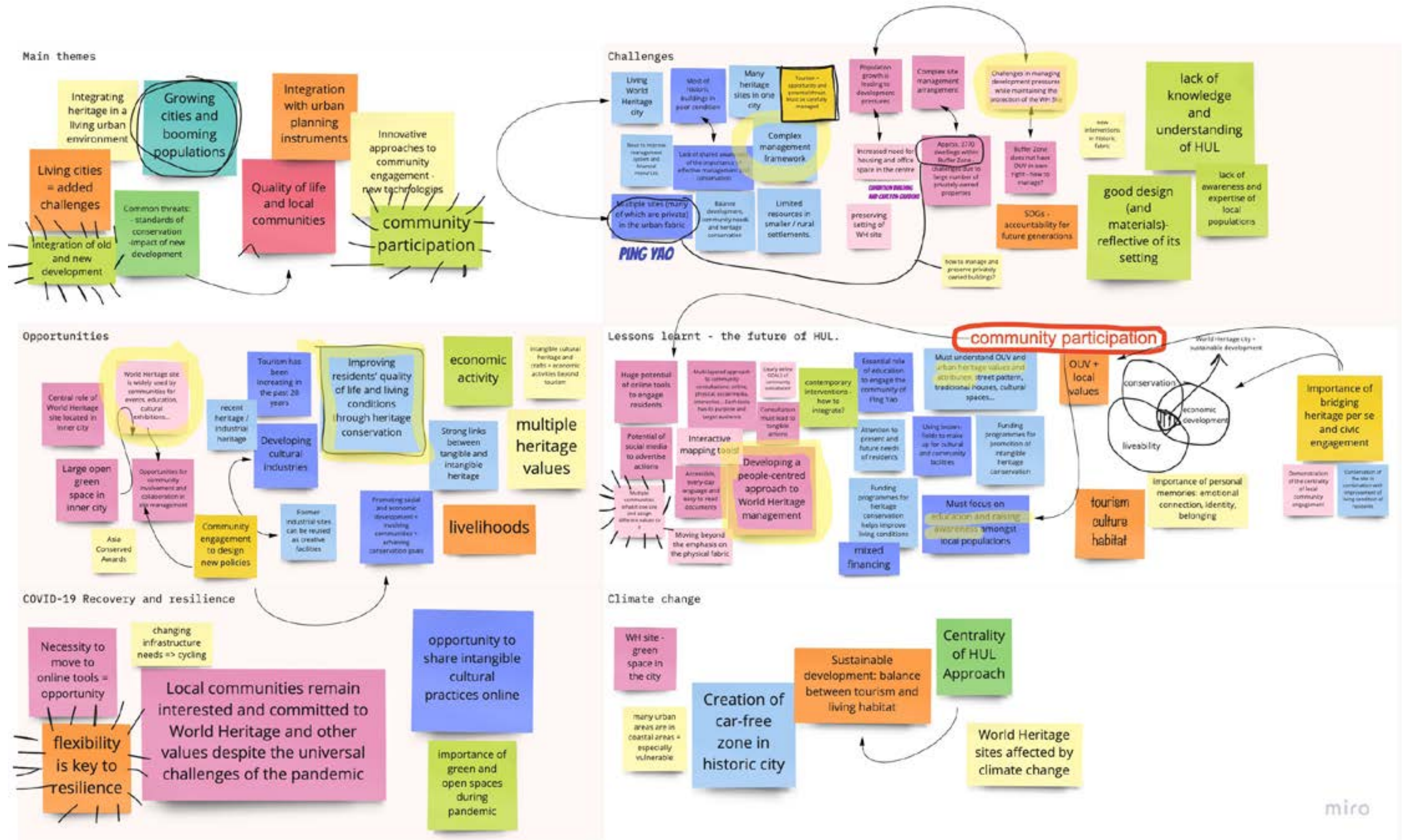
Opportunities

- Knowledge, planning and financial tools with recognition of heritage attributes
- Sharing expertise,
- Inclusivity of local spaces,
- Importance of local economy.

Next steps

- Develop new paradigms of achieving human-centred urban sustainability during the difficult times of pandemic.
- Adopt potential replicable models for HUL in the Asia Pacific Region.
- Use HUL tools for implementation and innovate to create your own city model for achieving sustainability.

Asia and the Pacific - visual summary of discussions



Asia and the Pacific - key themes

Governance



Conserving urban places



Including people



Green and resilient



Case studies

Consulting with community to understand heritage values during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne (Australia)

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Heritage site “Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens” began a process to review its World Heritage Management Plan. The review process began with a community consultation, which had to be carried out entirely online. The case study exemplifies some of the ways in which World Heritage site managers and local authorities reacted quickly to the pandemic, developing innovative and creative solutions to the new circumstances.



© Ko Hon Chiu Vincent

Presentation by Ms Amanda Bacon, Manager, Policy and Programmes, and Ms Hannah Fairbridge, Heritage Policy Officer, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, State Government of Victoria, Australia.

About Melbourne, the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens

Melbourne is the capital city of the state of Victoria, Australia. With a population of 5.06 million, the city is projected to become the largest city in Australia by 2056, with a projected population of 11.2 million. The high rate of population growth is leading to development pressures and an increased need for housing and office space in the inner city. At the same time, the city is a renowned tourism destination, hosting three million tourists in 2019.

Melbourne is home to the World Heritage site Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2004 under criterion (ii). The Royal Exhibition Building and its surrounding Carlton Gardens were designed for the great international exhibitions of 1880 and 1888 in Melbourne. The 26-hectare site was first reserved for public use in the early 1850s. The building and grounds were designed by celebrated architect Joseph Reed. The building is constructed of brick and timber, steel and slate. It combines elements from the Byzantine, Romanesque, Lombardic and Italian Renaissance styles.

The property is typical of the international exhibition movement which saw over 50 exhibitions staged between 1851 and 1915 in venues including Paris, New York, Vienna, Calcutta, Kingston (Jamaica) and Santiago (Chile). All shared a common theme and aims: to chart material and moral progress through displays of industry from all nations. (Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

The World Heritage site has a prominent location within Melbourne and sits within a historic nineteenth and early twentieth century urban landscape. The 'buffer zone', designated as the World Heritage Environs Area under local and State legislation contains approximately 4500 residences.

The urban context of the site has led to management challenges, as urban development pressures rise and the need for high-density living increases. The site's continued use as an Exhibition Hall makes it a unique community asset: it hosts a variety of events each year, including fashion festivals, international shows, cultural events and serves as an exam facility for the University of Melbourne. It is currently being used as a vaccination centre in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens play an important role in the state's civic, cultural and daily life, and are at the centre of lived experiences and memories for both residents and visitors alike. Consequently, the site management must protect and enhance its Outstanding Universal Value while accounting for the needs of the community and the urban context of the site.

Consulting with community to understand heritage values at an urban World Heritage site during the COVID-19 pandemic

In accordance with Australian legislation, the World Heritage Management Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens must be reviewed every seven years. A review of the existing Management Plan commenced in early 2020, beginning with an eight-week community consultation period. The consultation sought robust and diverse community feedback to guide the future of site management. The local communities were consulted on themes including but not limited to protection, conservation, future management, governance, use, values, stories, and interpretation; to ensure all values of the site are protected, enhanced and transmitted to future generations.

When the Management Plan review commenced, community engagement was recognised as key to informing future management of the site. The community consultation undertaken in 2020 aimed to address prior shortcomings, using innovative and accessible online technology, and presenting a practical solution to achieving meaningful community engagement at World Heritage sites, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The consultation programme aimed to be inclusive and used multiple engagement methods to ensure the local communities were empowered to respond and have their say on the World Heritage Management Plan and its component parts. The tools employed include:

- Interactive webpage (Engage Victoria)
- Online survey: used to capture wide-ranging information about how the site is accessed and used by the public. The survey intended to seek public views in relation to the management of the World Heritage site. It was divided into six themed sections, with a mix of 23 multiple choice and free-text questions. 194 survey responses were received over eight weeks;
- Interactive map: this tool allowed participants to drop 'pins' onto the map. It was widely used and received 266 responses. Comments were informal and often included shared personal experiences and memories of the site. They helped to understand what elements and aspects of the site are valued by the community as well as what they want to see protected and any areas of concern;
- Online information sessions: these sessions allowed participants to hear from those responsible for coordinating the Management Plan review, ask any questions and be answered in real time. Information sessions were originally planned to be in per-

- son, but due to the pandemic they were quickly configured to take place online;
- Social media communications to advertise consultation and tell people-centred historic stories;
- Accessible, every-day language and easy to read documents.



Screenshot of the Engage Victoria interactive mapping platform © Engage Victoria

The consultation process was undertaken by a Working Group, and led by the Ministerial-appointed Steering Committee for the site. The budget for consultation was AUD 10,000 (approx. USD 7,484), which was a cumulation of contributions made by Working Group agencies.

The consultation process faced the challenge of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw restrictions on public movement and gatherings throughout the country. The pandemic posed a great challenge in the implementation of community consultation processes. As a result, any planned in-person engagement very quickly shifted to the use of online platforms. The challenges were overcome through the Working Group's collaborative partnership and use of innovative engagement methods. The strong community response proved the ongoing commitment and interest of local residents to the World Heritage site even during the lockdown period.

The consultation received 506 community contributions from participants across the country. To date, the consultation has resulted in the following impacts:

- Consideration for reviewing the Steering Committee governance model;
- Undertaking specific consultation to document the values of the site for Australia's First Peoples;
- Development of a Strategic Plan to be implemented by the Steering Committee;
- Guidance on recommendations to be included in the World Heritage Management Plan;
- Identification of values besides Outstanding Universal Value, to protect and transmit for local communities;
- Identification of community concerns for the future of the site;
- Identification of opportunities for community involvement and collaboration.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Engage Victoria survey platform. The survey is titled 'A place protected for the people' and contains three sections of statements for respondents to agree or disagree with. Each section has a list of radio button options: 'I strongly agree', 'I agree', 'I disagree', 'I strongly disagree', and 'I don't know'. The first section discusses the site's use as a public place and its role as an exhibition venue. The second section discusses the balance of passive and active uses. The third section discusses the appropriateness of events and exhibitions. The fourth section discusses the sharing of stories. The fifth section discusses the sufficiency of information available about the site.

Screenshot of the Engage Victoria interactive survey platform © Engage Victoria

Following the community consultation period, the Steering Committee for the site will prepare a World Heritage Management Plan which will protect and preserve the site's Outstanding Universal Value, and balance the needs and values of the community with urban development, as well as the challenges of managing a World Heritage site within an urban environment.

Ultimately, the community consultation aimed to implement a people-centred approach, asking for people's experience and thoughts about the site. It sought to understand what the local communities value at the site, how they would like to use it, and what they would like to see protected into the future, in order to balance heritage conservation with the role of the site in the residents' daily lives. The COVID-19 pandemic posed both a challenge and opportunity that allowed the project to take place online, reaching a large number of community members.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Conservation and revitalisation programme of the Ancient City of Ping Yao (China)

The comprehensive conservation master plan aims to enhance heritage conservation and liveability while promoting sustainable social and economic development. Through innovative management and financing models and a combination of conservation actions aimed at both tangible and intangible heritage, the programme aims to make a contribution to the long-term sustainability of the historic city.



Craftsperson in the Ancient City of Ping Yao © SHAO Yong

Presentation by Prof. Shao Yong, Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University (China)

About the city of Ping Yao

Ping Yao is a medium-sized city located in the Shanxi Province (China). The city is home to the World Heritage site “Ancient City of Ping Yao”, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 under criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Ping Yao is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a traditional Han Chinese city, founded in the 14th century. Its urban fabric shows the evolution of architectural styles and town planning in Imperial China over five centuries. Of special interest are the imposing buildings associated with banking, for which Ping Yao was the major centre for the whole of China in the 19th and early 20th centuries. (Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

Conservation and Revitalisation Programme of the Ancient City of Ping Yao

The conservation and revitalisation programme of the Ancient City of Ping Yao is a comprehensive plan comprising multiple actions with the overall aim to enhance heritage conservation and liveability while promoting sustainable social and economic development. The official conservation masterplan was approved in 2014 and is currently under implementation. The programme was developed by a consortium of partners including Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute Co. Ltd. / Tongji University, and Pingyao County People’s Government and Bureau of Natural Resources. Global Heritage Fund and UNESCO experts, as well as other institutes and organisations, were invited for expertise and collaboration, promoting the cooperation between public and private partners.

The programme aims to create an integrated plan with three core areas of action:

- Culture and heritage: Ping Yao is culturally rich and home to many heritage sites. This cultural wealth can be harnessed to generate a positive impact in the livelihoods and quality of life of local residents.
- Liveability: The World Heritage site of the Ancient City of Ping Yao is a living city, with almost 20,000 residents in an area of 2.4 square kilometres. However, most of

the historic dwellings in use are in poor condition and require conservation interventions as well as other infrastructure upgrades, such as electricity and sewage.

- Economic development and tourism: tourism numbers in Ping Yao have increased in the past 20 years. The uncontrolled commercial development has led to other issues; there is a need to find a balance between tourism development and liveability.

These objectives are translated into several implementation lines:

- Heritage conservation: to protect the authenticity and integrity, a comprehensive conservation framework has been established to protect and preserve the historical layers of the city. The framework includes the ancient defence system, traditional urban planning layout, street patterns and public spaces, traditional courtyard houses, modern industrial heritage, and intangible cultural heritage.
- Promoting cultural industries: cultural and community facilities have been developed in brownfields, and new theatres and museums constructed. At the same time, funding schemes and policies have been put forward to promote and conserve intangible cultural heritage and crafts, including through sustainable tourism and cultural events.
- Improving the liveability of the urban areas: because many of the heritage structures are in private or mixed ownership, the government was unable to carry out the conservation works directly. The response plan includes a policy for subsidies for the restoration of traditional dwellings, the publication of restoration guidelines, and the establishment of a car-free precinct in the historic centre.
- Raising awareness: many local residents were unaware of Ping Yao's unique heritage values. On the one hand, the government and institutes like Tongji University organised workshops, lectures and educational activities for local stakeholders, residents and shop-owners, in order to raise awareness about heritage values and promote community participation. On the other hand, the programme focuses heavily on improving the liveability of the urban areas, developing subsidies and guidelines to encourage and guide the private owners of traditional dwellings to restore their own houses.
- Coordination: as a smaller, county-level city, resources management and capacities were sometimes limited. To address the general lack of information and coordination, an integrated management plan was created, as well as a toolbox combining planning regulation, building permits, finance and governance information.

As a result of the programme, the site managers report that the state of conservation and liveability of the city has improved, especially through the restoration programmes, subsidies and restoration guidelines. More than 90 courtyard buildings have been restored in an initiative which received an Award of Merit during the 2015 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

The site has undergone significant economic development, with a measurable increase in the average income for residents and new job opportunities. New cultural industries have been developed in abandoned factory sites such as the former Diesel Engine Plant, now transformed into the Pingyao Festival Palace, a cultural and community centre used for events.

Finally, intangible cultural heritage practices have been strengthened and promoted, thereby enhancing the tourism offer and experience.

Regional takeaways

Europe and North America



Summary

At a glance

Cities

- Graz (Austria) – Mr Siegfried Nagl, Mayor
- Dubrovnik (Croatia) – Ms Jelka Tepšić, Deputy Mayor
- Paris (France) – Ms Karen Taïeb, Deputy Mayor for Heritage History of Paris and Relations with Religions
- Florence (Italy) – Mr Dario Nardella, Mayor
- Cordoba (Spain) – Mr José María Bellido, Mayor

Experts

- Session chairs: Ms GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens (Secretary General, ENCATC), Ms Erminia Sciacchitano (Italian Ministry of Culture)
- Rapporteurs: Ms Carola Hein (Full Professor and Chair, History of Architecture and Urban Planning, Delft University of Technology), Ms Carol Westrik (heritage expert, Netherlands), Ms Marie-Noël Tournoux (Director at WHITRAP Shanghai, member of the ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages, and the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes).

Of the 320 World Heritage Cities, 182 are in the Europe and North America region.

Case studies

- Pedestrianization of historic streets and public spaces in Graz (Austria)
- Establishing a dialogue between site management and residents in the Historic Centre of Salzburg (Austria)
- Taking nature into account in the World Heritage Management plan of Strasbourg (France)
- Water and the city: enhancing the shared identity of Mantua and Sabbioneta (Italy)
- Developing sustainable rural tourism in San Gimignano (Italy)
- Literary tourism in the university town of Coimbra (Portugal)
- Community-led urban planning in Durham (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The region of Europe and North America is home to more than half of all World Heritage Cities. Consequently, expert lectures and case studies about cities located in this region were included in several Technical Sessions.

Technical Session 4

The fourth technical session opened with an introduction from Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, who gave an overview of the HUL Recommendation, activities to promote its implementation, and the work of the World Heritage Cities Programme and partners such as ICOMOS and the European Commission.

In her introduction, session chair Ms Erminia Sciacchitano recalled the above challenges and started the discussion with the question: 'How can cultural heritage promote sustainable development at a time for change?'

The programme then moved to the numerous case studies from the Europe region. The first of these was from Austria: the City of Graz and its Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg, presented by Ms Gertraud Strempl-Ledl. A second case study from Austria focused on the Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Historic District: Mülln in dialogue), presented by Ms Susanne Mayer. Next, a case study from Durham Castle and Cathedral (United Kingdom) was shared by Ms Penelope Gibson, heritage coordinator for the site, Mr John Lowe and Ms Sue Childs on the subject of neighbourhood plans in support of the World Heritage Site. The first part of the session closed with another case study on the Historic Centre of Urbino, Italy, presented by Ms Luana Alessandrini.

The session rapporteur Ms Carola Hein summarized participants' thoughts on the implementation of HUL principles in these case studies and the ensuing discussion. Participants noted a number of pressing issues for the future of HUL implementation and for heritage conservation in urban areas.

- Projects should include diverse and temporary communities (students, tourists, migrants) to promote gender, age, class equality, inclusion and social justice for heritage preservation.
- With regard to the relationship between heritage and the private sector and business communities, managing authorities should engage partners with conflicting interests and facilitate interaction.
- On the question of measuring, mapping and engagement tools, participants indicated the need to use existing examples to develop concrete data sets, indicators, tools and mechanisms for including citizens.
- In the area of education and narratives, the discussion focused on education for heritage-conscious development, for lifestyles and social imaginaries, and stories.
- A multiscale, ecosystem approach was advocated in order to understand the systemic and networked interrelatedness of heritage (i.e. around the Mediterranean Sea), and to acknowledge urban - rural interconnection (growth and decline).
- Finally, the session participants addressed the need to recognize complexities and look forward, anticipate public health challenges, disasters, terrorism, digital developments, and to clarify challenges and climate change impacts specific to local contexts, in order to best address them.

The Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre closed the session.

Watch the recording
of the session

Technical Session 5

The Session Chair of Session 5, Mr Papa Abdoulaye Sy (Global Lead for Urban Development, Islamic Development Bank), as regional expert for this region, focused on the Arab States. Same could be said of Rapporteur Ms Imane Bennani (Director of the Rabat School of Architecture, International University of Rabat).

This Francophone session included a case study on the city of Strasbourg in France. The case study was presented by Ms Cathy Muller, Head of the Building Police Department, Strasbourg. It deals with the consideration of nature and green space in the Strasbourg Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan.

Watch the recording of
the session (English)

Watch the recording of
the session (French)

Technical Session 6

The sixth and final preliminary technical session featured a set of case studies and participants from Europe and North America.

Following the general introduction by Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar, the session chair Ms GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens (Secretary General, ENCATC) introduced a series of themes and questions to be discussed.

As a network manager, she noted the need to cross-reference the lessons learned from the case studies: for education to preserve and develop heritage; for sustainability as an essential part of development; for relations with cultural and territorial communities; the importance of the digital dimension of heritage and formulating strategies for integration.

Given the complexity of contemporary heritage management (with issues around climate change, the pandemic, overpopulation, and gentrification, among others), she noted how the New European Bauhaus could serve as a project to rethink European cities; the case studies serving as examples of how the urban ecosystem could be managed in a way that bridges preservation and future-oriented development. Tourism is a key topic in Europe, and plays a major role in the post-pandemic reorganization of historic cities. Ms Cogliandro Beyens called for the use of case studies to inform the reinterpretation of the three phases of tourism: demand, destination and site management.

Ms Monica Bedini and Ms Maria Estefania Gioia then shared the first case study on the World Heritage Site of Mantua and Sabbioneta (Italy) – the relationship between the city and its waterways, and community involvement through the examples of ‘Pescherie di Giulio Romano’ and ‘Cerchio d’Acqua’. The second case study, presented by Ms Vivina Carreira, addressed the issues of literary tourism, territory and education at the University of Coimbra – Alta and Sofia, Portugal. The third case study, on linking the Historic Centre of San Gimignano (Italy) to agricultural and rural heritage in the surrounding countryside, was shared by Ms Carolina Taddei from the Municipality of San Gimignano.

Participants discussed the issues online and in a Q+A session led by the session chair.

The session rapporteur, Ms Carol Westrik, a heritage expert from the Netherlands, concluded by noting that the cases focused on the importance of management actions

and choices. A good starting point is asking questions, discussing with stakeholders and communities and using participatory processes. The question of which communities to involve is especially important: in several case studies, young people were key drivers and citizens took direct initiatives to promote heritage. Small local businesses were also essential, and projects that provide them with data and include them in plans for heritage management are key. This relates to the broader need to link resilience and local livelihoods through integrated strategies and intersectoral governance. Among the challenges faced in these studies are: identifying and meeting financial needs; identification of issues and solutions; climate change, including the SDGs and 2030 cultural indicators; and Fukuoka outcomes with regard to HUL.

The final conclusions to the technical sessions were delivered by Ms GiannaLia Coglian-
dro Beyens and Ms Jyoti Hosagrahar.

Watch the recording of
the session (English)

Watch the recording of
the session (Spanish)

Key learnings

Challenges

- Development pressures
- The design of high-quality, accessible public space
- Mass tourism
- The COVID-19 pandemic crisis
- Working with large numbers of stakeholders and communities with different priorities, such as residents, businesses, students and tourists
- Long-term financing
- New infrastructure projects (regional rail development) and increases in traffic
- Regulatory systems and governance: communication with statutory bodies, differing values
- Climate change and its impact at the local level
- Improvement of current agricultural systems around the city

Opportunities and ways forward

Long-term governance and planning

- Recall the social role of World Heritage values. This can help foster a new approach to social cohesion and inclusion through: valorization of local cultural resources, promotion of lifelong education, strengthening local identities, developing a community-based economy, and tourism. Holistic urban planning is necessary
- Successful projects building on partnerships
- Evidence- and data-driven
- Reliable funding

Architectural and urban design

- Public spaces are high-quality (green/blue) and well-connected
- Promote pedestrian and carbon-neutral transport
- Forging a connection to historic green areas and rivers

Civic participation

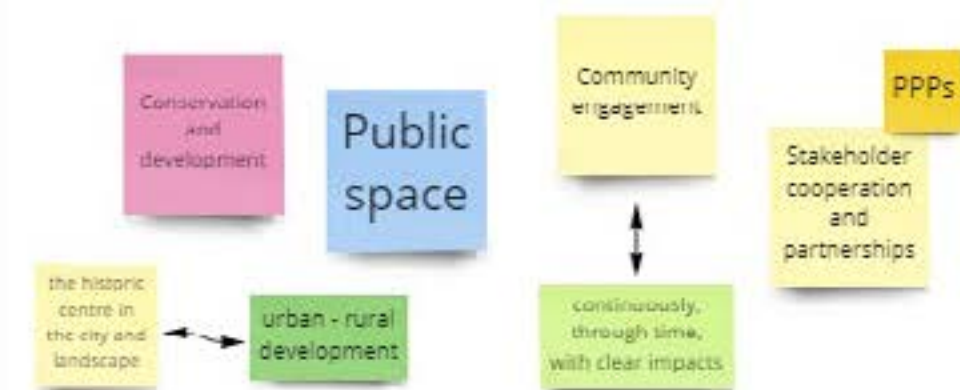
- Adopting a more participatory and inclusive process (young people and rural communities), by enhancing and developing the city's social capacity through institutional learning.
- Developing and maintaining new forms of collaborations and partnerships, working with a wide range of local stakeholders, including associations, farms, young people and rural community leaders.
- Create a genuine engagement with the community that helps bridge the social and generational gap, and that harnesses locals' knowledge of their cities.

Local economic development

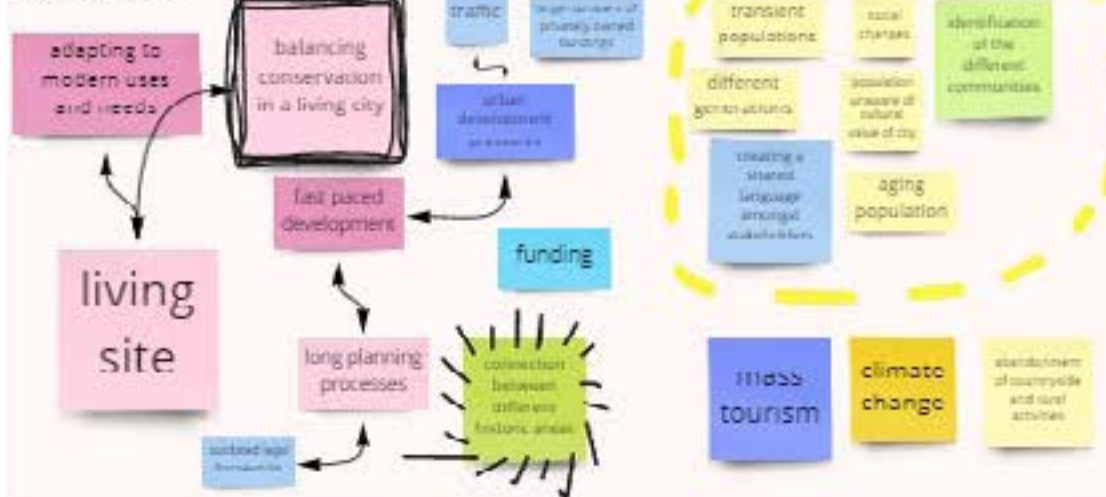
- City-local territory connection (including agriculture)
- Projects respond to local particularities
- Generating more sustainable livelihoods, local revenues and small local businesses through sustainable tourism

Europe - visual summary of discussions

Common themes / thèmes communs



Challenges



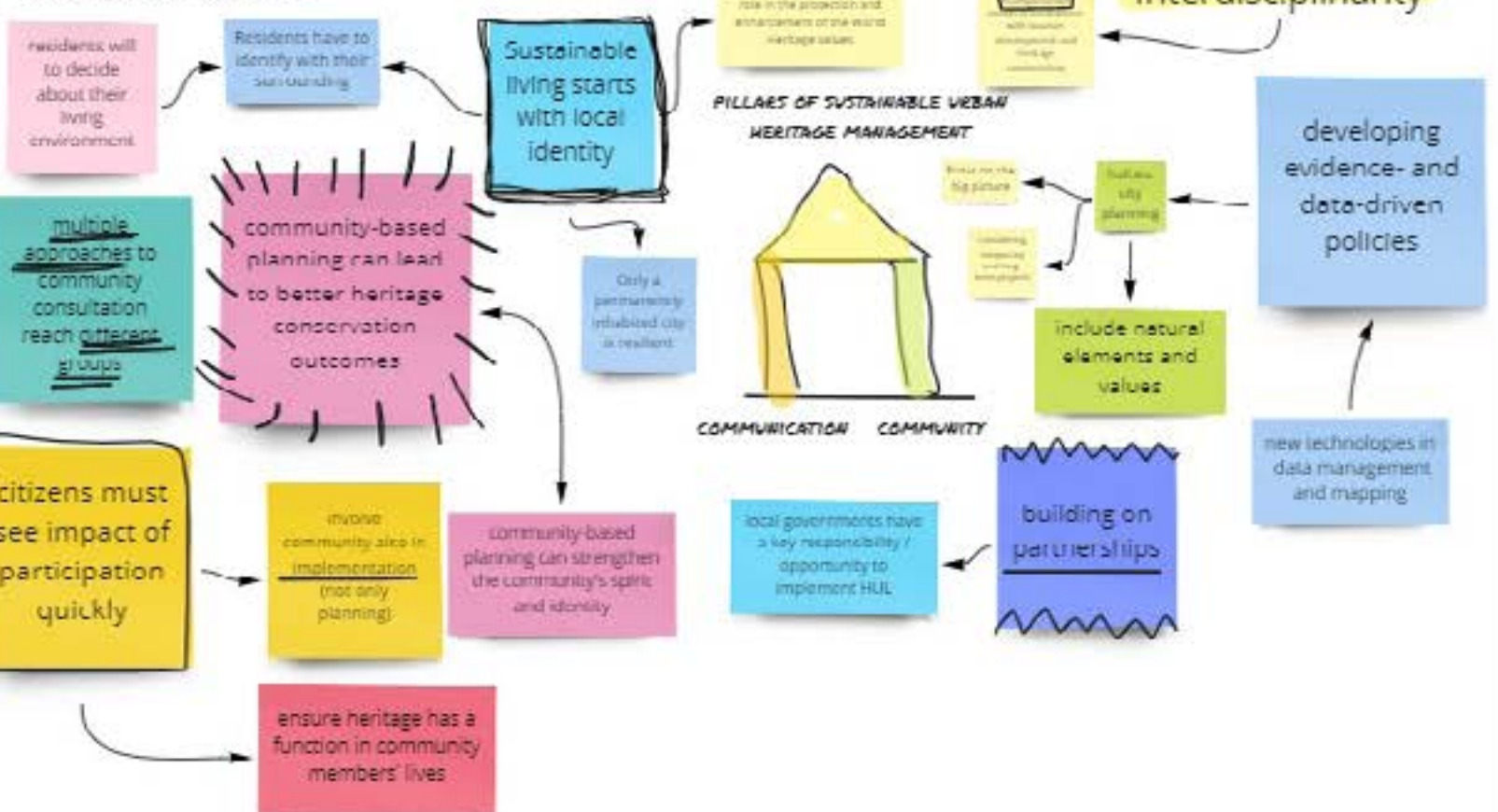
Opportunities



Lessons learnt



the future of HUL.



COVID 19 Recovery and resilience



Climate change



Europe - key themes

Governance



Conserving urban places



Including people



Green and resilient



Case studies

Pedestrianization of historic streets and public spaces in Graz (Austria)

As part of a wider effort to create a pedestrian-only zone in the historic centre, Graz carried an ambitious programme to re-design its historic streets and public spaces through high-quality design interventions. As a consequence, the quality of public spaces has improved, with more area allocated for people and non-motorised transport, and the new plantings have contributed to improve the micro-climate of the historic centre.



Presentation by Ms Gertraud Strempl-Ledl, World Heritage Coordinator, City of Graz.

About the city of Graz

Graz is the capital city of the province of Styria, and second largest city in Austria with a population of 331,562 people. The city extends over nearly 130 km² in the valley of the river Mur, at the foothill of the Alps. Graz comprises the World Heritage site City of Graz, Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1999 under criteria (ii) and (iv).

The World Heritage site bears witness to an exemplary model of the living heritage of a central European urban complex influenced by the secular presence of the Habsburgs and the cultural and artistic role played by the main aristocratic families. The Historic Centre of Graz and Schloss Eggenberg are a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other from the Middle Ages until the 18th century, in the many neighbouring regions of Central and Mediterranean Europe. They embody a diversified and highly comprehensive ensemble of architectural, decorative and landscape examples of these interchanges of influence (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

The State of Conservation Reports presented to the World Heritage Committee between 2004-2009 highlight issues regarding urban development pressures and incomplete management frameworks, particularly regarding the re-design and adaptation of the Department Store project of Kastner & Öhler, located in the core zone of the property.

- After a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS expert mission was deployed to the property in October 2006, the State Party followed the mission's recommendations and submitted a management plan and a master plan for the World Heritage property, as well as further details on proposed and ongoing development projects.
- In 2007, the World Heritage Committee noted with satisfaction that the State Party has submitted a management plan and a master plan for the World Heritage property (Decision 31 COM 7B.106). The plan was later revised in 2013.

- In 2010, the boundaries of the World Heritage site were extended to include Schloss Eggenberg and the historical axis which connects the city centre with the castle (Decision 34 COM 8 B.37).

Pedestrianisation of historic streets and public spaces

As part of a wider effort to create a pedestrian-only zone in the historic centre, the city of Graz carried an ambitious programme to re-design its historic streets and public spaces through high-quality design interventions. The initiative aims to enhance the quality and accessibility of the public space and improve sustainability standards in the historic city, to promote non-motorised transport and mitigate the urban heat island.

The project is a direct consequence of the extension of the pedestrian zone to enhance the liveability of the historic centre and promote sustainable transportation. At the same time, the intervention reacted to the increased security needs by installing new high-quality street furniture that doubled as barriers.



Upper Sporgasse after the works
© Christian Probst



Detail of new planters in the Schmiedgasse
© achtzigzahn_jane.

The streets were paved with granite pavers, which are high-quality and durable. The historic paving techniques enhance the character of the historic centre while reducing the speed of traffic. Bicycle parking areas are located on the streets and squares in order to promote non-motorised transport.

At the same time, the proposal included new trees and planting which provide shade and cooling, mitigating the urban heat island effect. New accessible, shaded areas were created, where users can sit and enjoy social interactions. Diverse seating options cater for users of different needs.

As a consequence, the historic centre of Graz has seen a redistribution of public space, with more area allocated for people and priority given to non-motorised transport. The quality of public spaces has improved, and the new plantings have contributed to improve the micro-climate of the densely-built historic centre.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Establishing a dialogue between site management and residents in the Historic Centre of Salzburg (Austria)

A long-standing programme of community engagement has allowed the city of Salzburg to improve the connection between the municipality and local residents, providing key data and inputs for the sustainable development of the World Heritage Site.



Presentation by Mr Alexander Würfel and Ms Susanne Mayer, Department of Urban Development and Building Authority, City of Salzburg.

About the city of Salzburg

Salzburg is a mid-size city in Austria, capital of the province of the same name. With a population of over 155,000 people and an area of nearly 90km², Salzburg is the 5th largest city in Austria. The economy of the city is strongly driven by culture and cultural tourism, and the city received c. 6 million visitors in 2019.

The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996 under criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi). Salzburg has preserved an extraordinarily rich urban fabric, developed over the period from the Middle Ages to the 19th century, when it was a city-state ruled by a prince-archbishop. Its Flamboyant Gothic art attracted many craftsmen and artists before the city became even better known through the work of the Italian architects Vincenzo Scamozzi and Santini Solari, to whom the centre of Salzburg owes much of its Baroque appearance (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

The State of Conservation Reports presented to the World Heritage Committee between 2000 and 2021 highlight ongoing issues regarding the legal and management framework, especially regarding the construction of new development in a way that preserves the Outstanding Universal Value of the site and respecting the existing urban scale and historic patterns. In 2021, the World Heritage Committee reviewed a number of development projects, some of which were completed before agreement was reached on their designs. The Committee welcomed progress made concerning the introduction of new regulations for large-scale developments near the buffer zone and the submission of the revised Management Plan, and requested further updates, as well as a comprehensive Urban Land Use Plan and HIAs for projects which may have a negative impact on the OUV of the property. (Decision 44 COM 7B.41)

According to the site manager, some of the challenges faced by the site include urban development pressures, mass tourism, traffic, infrastructure, a long-standing legal framework (developed in 1967) and the revision of the management plan. On the other hand, the city sees its cultural heritage as a source of opportunities, such as its festival tradition and cultural events.

Establishing a dialogue between site management and residents

In order to improve the communication between local residents and the site management authority, a number of community events called “Mülln in dialogue” were organised between 2016 and 2018. The programme included community workshops, meetings, tours, open days, questionnaires and a photo exhibition. The events were co-organised by the City of Salzburg and the Old Town Traders' Cooperative, with the intention to raise awareness about World Heritage values, inform local residents and collect their input on the challenges and potential future of the historic areas. At the same time, the programme allowed the Municipality to collect data on population, workplaces, businesses and history of the city centre.

As a result, the site managers report an increased sense of identity and awareness of the historic development of the city for local residents. At the same time, the programme had several tangible outputs, such as improved street lighting, bike routes, a publication about the history of the city, the re-opening of the historical cemetery and, most importantly, a collection of citizens' ideas for political decisions.

Overall, the programme was seen as largely successful, with large participation numbers and a high interest in the initiative. According to the site managers, the outcomes and impacts have been clearly positive, and the project will be revisited in 15-20 years. The experience has taught the site managers that sustainable living starts with local identity, as only a permanently inhabited city is sustainable. Residents need to identify with their surroundings and have a say in the conservation and development of their own cultural heritage in order to ensure a sustainable future for the World Heritage property.



Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Improving the environmental, cultural and social sustainability of the Historic Centre of Urbino (Italy)

Through a series of strategic actions, Urbino has sought to improve its environmental sustainability and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation. An update of the management plan is currently under way in order to create an integrated, holistic view of the World Heritage site, taking into consideration its strengths and challenges.



© Luana Alessandrini, Comune di Urbino

Presentation by Ms Luana Alessandrini, Urbino World Heritage Office, Municipality of Urbino.

About the city of Urbino

Urbino is a historic city located in the region of Marche, in central Italy. The city is in the central Apennines, at an altitude of 485 metres above the sea level. With a size of over 220 km², the municipality is home to just under 14,000 residents. In addition, Urbino is also home to approximately 15,000 university students who come to the city every year and are mostly housed within the historic centre. The Historic Centre of Urbino was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998 under criteria (ii) and (iv).

The small Italian hill town of Urbino became, for a short time during the Renaissance era, one of the major cultural centres in Europe. Today, the historic centre is defined by its Renaissance walls that survive virtually intact, complete with bastions. Within these walls, several buildings of extraordinary quality have been retained such as the Ducal Palace, the cathedral, the Monastery of Santa Chiara and a complex system of oratories. Urbino represents a pinnacle of Renaissance art and architecture, harmoniously adapted to its physical site and to its medieval precursor in an exceptional manner (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

According to the site manager of the World Heritage property, the strengths of the site are strongly linked to its rich cultural heritage and unique geographical position. They include the monumental and built heritage, urban identity, views, parks, agricultural landscape, traditional and organic agricultural practices, and traditional crafts such as bookbinding, engraving and printing.

On the other hand, the site is facing a number of challenges, such as:

- Low levels of awareness about heritage values amongst the local population (including its Outstanding Universal Value), leading to a lack of care and capacity to interpret heritage as an opportunity for local development.
- Social changes, including aging and transient populations.
- Transformation of the rural landscape, through mechanisation of agricultural activities and progressive abandonment and re-naturalisation of traditional agricultural landscapes.
- Climate change.

Improving the environmental, cultural and social sustainability of the Historic Centre of Urbino

In recent years, the Municipality of Urbino has carried out several actions to improve the environmental, cultural, and social sustainability of the city. These efforts will be included in the ongoing revision of the World Heritage Management Plan. Firstly, after adhering to the European Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the city has developed a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). The plan includes a baseline review with an inventory of emissions and climate risk and vulnerability assessment, as well as strategies for Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation. The World Heritage site plays a key role in the plan, especially in the section related to adaptation, concerning the energy efficiency of the buildings in the historic centre. After adhering to the European Covenant of Mayors in 2010, in 2019 Urbino fulfilled this commitment and reduced its CO2 emissions by 25%.

Most recently, the World Heritage site of the Historic Centre of Urbino is carrying out an update of the World Heritage Management Plan. The update aims to protect and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the site while reducing its environmental impact, promoting climate adaptation and mitigation, guiding sustainable development, and involving the local communities.

The current Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Urbino was approved on 3 December 2013. It was based on an earlier 2003 Management Plan and its 2011 update. The 2013 Management Plan was funded by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage under the line of grants devoted to UNESCO World Heritage sites (National Law N. 77/06). The plan was developed by the Municipality of Urbino in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture – Superintendence of Marche Region, Provinces of Pesaro e Urbino, Mountain Union Alta valle del Metauro, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Archdioceses of Urbino, Urbania and S. Angelo in Vado, and ISA - Urbino Book School - Art High School.

The update is based on the 2013 Management Plan and responds to the recommendations of the ICOMOS Report dated December 2016. The update of the Management Plan aims to preserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, raise awareness about the site's cultural values, integrate cultural heritage in the overall vision for the city and collaboratively design a path forward with the local communities. The process for the update of the Management Plan started in 2020 and is expected to come to an end in 2021.

The update will include the Urbino Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan and the Disaster Risk Management Plan, which includes an update of the Civil Protection Plan and a disaster risk analysis and reduction plan. It will also employ the approach of the Historic Urban Recommendation in the identification and protection of the historical layers of the city, and the integration of heritage conservation with short- and long-term urban development policies. It will address three key topics:

- Climate change prevention, adaptation and mitigation: involving actions to minimise the environmental impact of the city and adapt to the inevitable reality of climate change.
- Heritage-based local development: the aim is to make cultural heritage the main driver for sustainable local development.
- Sustainable agriculture: supporting and enhancing traditional and organic agricultural practices can help promote economic development, preserve the historic landscape and improve soil conservation.

The initiative is developed by a consortium of partners, including local, regional, and national authorities, and cultural and educational institutions. The main project partners are the Italian Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Urbino, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Marche Region, Provinces of Pesaro and Urbino, Archdiocese of Urbino, Urbania and Sant'Angelo in Vado, National Gallery of the Marche: Ducal Palace of Urbino, Raffaello's House - Raffaello Academy, Erdis - Regional Body for the Right to Education, Alta Valle del Metauro Mountain Union; Montefeltro Mountain Union; Catria and Nerone Mountain Union; Valmarecchia Union of Municipalities; Local Action Group Montefeltro Development; Local Action Group Valli Marecchia and Conca. Other stakeholders include local associations, educational institutions, and neighbouring municipalities.

During the period of implementation of the current World Heritage Management Plan, the project team learned the importance of raising awareness and building knowledge amongst the residents on World Heritage values and their attributes and involving them in the conservation and management processes. Consequently, the review process will include a community consultation process, carried out by the University of Urbino Carlo Bo.

The consultation will use a variety of tools including working tables, questionnaires in-person and virtual meetings, and an online communications campaign through the website and social media channels of the Administration.

In-person surveys will be carried out by local students as an internship experience within their academic programme. The consultation will seek to understand the awareness of the local population about World Heritage and engage stakeholders in the update of the management plan.

Through the development of the Sustainable Energy and Action Plan and update of the World Heritage Management Plan, Urbino aims to address the challenges facing the city, such as climate change and environmental sustainability, and to propose a path for heritage-centred sustainable local development, designed in a collaborative way with the local communities. In doing so, Urbino aims to ensure the sustainability and habitability of the historic town for the years to come.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Taking nature into account in the World Heritage Management plan of Strasbourg (France)

The World Heritage site of “Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt” is carrying out an update of the World Heritage management plan and urban planning tools following the extension of the property in 2017. The new plan will seek to integrate cultural and natural heritage values and their attributes in order to improve the city’s liveability and micro-climate.



© Frantisek Zvardon Ville et Eurométropole de Strasbourg.

Presentation by Ms Cathy MULLER, Head of the Building Police Department of the Euro-metropolis of Strasbourg

About the city of Strasbourg

Strasbourg is a city in the Rhine valley in North-Eastern France, by the German border. The city is one of the three “European capitals” with Luxembourg and Brussels, and hosts the headquarters of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and other European institutions. The city has a medium density: with a total area of 78km² and 284,000 inhabitants (500,000 in the metropolitan area), the overall density is 3,630 inhabitants / km².

Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt was inscribed on the World Heritage List under criteria (ii) and (iv). The initial property, inscribed in 1988, was formed by the Grande-Île, the historic centre of Strasbourg. An extension concerning the Neustadt, the new town, designed and built under the German administration (1871-1918) to convert it into a regional capital, was approved in 2017.

The Grande-Île and the Neustadt form an urban ensemble that is characteristic of Rhineland Europe, with a structure that centres on the cathedral, a major masterpiece of Gothic art. Its distinctive silhouette dominates the ancient riverbed of the Rhine and its man-made waterways. Perspectives created around the cathedral give rise to a unified urban space and shape a distinctive landscape organized around the rivers and canals.

The French and Germanic influences have enabled the composition of a specific urban space combining constructions reflecting major significant periods of European history: Roman Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Rhineland Renaissance, French 18th century classicism, and then the 19th and early 20th centuries which saw the emergence of a modern city, the capital and symbol of the new German state (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

Taking nature into account in the World Heritage Management plan of Strasbourg

The World Heritage site of Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt, is using the opportunity provided by the update of the World Heritage management plan to enhance and valorise the natural elements present in this outstanding urban environment. This goal is achieved through a variety of means including regulations, guidelines and planning tools.

The World Heritage Management and safeguarding plan (Plan de sauvegarde et de mise en valeur) is a binding document covering the World Heritage site and surroundings, a total of 209 hectares. Originally developed in 2011, the plan is currently undergoing a revision and extension to include the Neustadt, following the 2017 extension of the World Heritage site. The update is expected to be finalised by 2022.

The project is developed by the Urbanism and Development Agency of the Metropolis of Strasbourg (Agence de développement et d'urbanisme de l'agglomération strasbourgeoise, ADEUS) in partnership with a number of heritage professionals, which includes architects, historians, landscape architects, urbanists and sociologists. It is financed by the French national government, the Regional direction of cultural affairs, the City and Euro-metropolis of Strasbourg.

The aims of the revision and extension are to:

- Protect and enhance the urban heritage of the city
- Enhance the habitability of the historic centre, threatened by mass tourism.
- Preserve the built and natural heritage
- Improve the cultural and economic attractiveness of the city
- Manage disaster risk, mainly regarding fire and flooding.

These goals are planned to be implemented through a variety of actions, including urban regulations and planning tools, which target public spaces, natural heritage, and significant buildings (both interior and exterior).

The update is used as an opportunity to include natural heritage values and their attributes within the wider frameworks of heritage preservation. By protecting green areas and vegetation, the city aims to improve its liveability and environmental performance, and preserve and diversify its natural elements and spaces. Specifically, the natural heritage is protected through:

- Detailed studies of the characteristics, morphology, and identity of green spaces
- Written regulations
- Graphic regulations
- Guidelines for development and thematic planning

By including natural heritage within the planning and management tools of the World Heritage site, Strasbourg aims to send a clear message regarding the importance of green spaces and vegetation as key elements of urban heritage and identity, which must be protected and preserved for future generations. Green spaces can improve the liveability of urban areas and prevent and mitigate the urban heat island effect, reducing the city's adverse environmental impact and contributing to the fight against climate change.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Water and the city: enhancing the shared identity of Mantua and Sabbioneta (Italy)

Two initiatives aim to strengthen the shared identity of this serial World Heritage property by building on landscape and historical values: namely, the relationship between the city and the water. Through a common methodology and goals, the initiatives aim to enhance the cities' liveability and tourism potential while promoting local communities' involvement in heritage preservation.



© Valerio Li Vigni

Presentation by Ms Monica Bedini, Mantua and Sabbioneta World Heritage Office, and Ms Maria Estefania Gioia, Politecnico di Milano.

About the cities of Mantua and Sabbioneta

Mantua and Sabbioneta are two historical cities located in the Po valley, in the north of Italy. Mantua, a provincial capital, has a population of just under 50,000, while the town of Sabbioneta has just over 4,000 residents. The cities, located ca. 30 km apart, are components of the World Heritage serial property “Mantua and Sabbioneta”, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2008 under criteria (ii) and (iii).

Mantua and Sabbioneta represent two aspects of Renaissance town planning: Mantua shows the renewal and extension of an existing city, while Sabbioneta represents the implementation of the period's theories about planning the ideal city. Mantua's layout is irregular with areas of the city showing different stages of its growth since the Roman period and includes many historical buildings, among them an 11th century rotunda and a Baroque theatre. Sabbioneta, created in the second half of the 16th century under the rule of Vespasiano Gonzaga Colonna, can be described as a single-period city and has a right-angle grid layout. Both cities offer exceptional testimonies to the urban, architectural and artistic realizations of the Renaissance, linked through the visions and actions of the ruling Gonzaga family. The two towns are important for the value of their architecture and for their prominent role in the dissemination of Renaissance culture. The ideals of the Renaissance, fostered by the Gonzaga family, are present in the towns' morphology and architecture. (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

Creating a shared framework in the serial World Heritage site

As a serial property spanning over two different municipalities located 30 km away, the World Heritage site of Mantua and Sabbioneta faces increased challenges for the management and coordination of the site. The site is managed by a central Management Office, in charge of preserving, promoting and raising awareness about its Outstanding Universal Value through the implementation of the Management Plan, coordinated policies and initiatives.

Due to their geographical situation on the Po valley, both Mantua and Sabbioneta have a strong historical relationship with the water and the landscape. In recent years, the cities have sought to enhance this shared identity and character through innovative actions such as the establishment of a common Management Office, the restoration of the historical fish market in Mantua, designed by Mannerist architect Giulio Romano, and community-driven landscape interventions around the Sabbioneta city walls. Both projects aim to link World Heritage values and attributes with local needs and aspirations through a landscape and participatory approach.

Management framework

In 2008, the two Municipalities signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance the joint management of the serial property. In 2008, a central World Heritage management office was created, which allowed for the permanent coordination between the two components. The management office aims to enhance the single identity of the serial property, preserving, promoting, and raising awareness about its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) through the implementation of the Management Plan, coordinated policies and initiatives.

The Management Plan was updated in 2020 following the Historic Urban Landscape approach, taking into consideration the different layers of the city, including the wider social and cultural values which are linked to the urban areas. Overall, the driving mission of the Management Plan is to make sure that heritage continues to play a central role in the life of the local communities, contributing to sustainable development and individual and collective identities, while protecting the site's OUV. The management plan was developed using a participatory and integrated approach, by involving communities and stakeholders in the management of the site, carrying out awareness-raising actions and identifying the strategies and actions.

The new Management Plan has four key areas of action:

- Knowledge and documentation: including GIS mapping, photographic documentation of the state of conservation, establishment a central knowledge centre for the site, and the development of historical studies and heritage inventories
- Protection and conservation: including the adaptation of local and regional planning instruments, developing an environmental risk reduction plan, and a guidance for physical conservation actions in the historical fabric.
- Enhancement: a number of initiatives aim to improve the liveability of the cities and promote the development of sustainable tourism through landscape interventions, rehabilitation of public spaces, touristic routes, transportation and mobility plans, and tourism initiatives.
- Education and communication: including the creation of a heritage interpretation centre, cultural festivals and events, awareness-raising initiatives and educational projects with schools.

By setting up a central management office and management plan, Mantua and Sabbioneta aim to enhance their joint identity as a serial property, enabling the cities to develop their tourism potential and harness the capacity of cultural heritage to contribute to local development and livelihoods.

Restoration of the 16th century fish market

The city of Mantua is located on a peninsula surrounded by three lakes. In recent years, this geographical setting has inspired a vision for the enhancement of Mantua as the “City of water”, through the rehabilitation of public spaces located near the water systems that surround the city, such as the lakeshore.

The latest initiative strengthening Mantua’s relationship with the water concerns the former fish market, or *pescherie*, located both on and along the *rio*, a historic canal that crosses the city centre. Built by Mannerist architect Giulio Romano between 1536 and 1546, the former fish market is an impressive structure that connects the city with the historic canal, spanning over the old Medieval bridge with several loggias that form a series of open spaces. The building was abandoned in the 20th century and sat unused and abandoned for decades.

Since 2015, a new initiative is in progress to restore the old fish market, which is currently not accessible, in order to improve the state of conservation of the historical canal and to reconnect the city with it. This will include the rehabilitation of the historical structure as the new Mantua and Sabbioneta Heritage Centre.

The project is developed through a partnership between the local government, cultural institutions, NGOs and members of civil society. With the total cost of over one million Euros, the restoration is supported by private-public financing to promote heritage-centred economic development. The process started in 2015, when the Municipality of Mantua created a tender for a concession to rehabilitate the building, which was unused and for sale at the time. The 30-year concession was eventually given in 2016 to the not-for-profit organisation *Associazione Amici di Palazzo Te e dei Musei Mantovani*, who, for this purpose, established the *Pescherie Di Giulio Romano Foundation*. Under the leadership of the Foundation, conservation works have been under way since 2016 and are expected to end in 2022. During these years, the Foundation has carried out temporary activities, events and cultural visits to involve local residents in the reconstruction process. The project has brought together different stakeholders such as the Municipality of Mantua, the regional government of Lombardy, banking institutions, civil society and local businesses.

Note: this project has not been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre for review in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Landscape rehabilitation of the historic embankments

Sabbioneta is a fortified city which was built *ex-novo* following Renaissance concepts of the ideal city. The city is bound by large city walls with embankments, surrounded by reclaimed land. In this context, the project “Circle of water” (*Cerchio d’acqua*) proposed a community-led rehabilitation of the landscape surrounding the city walls and the historic embankment system. The project aimed to reclaim the embankments as public space, creating an extensive programme to restore them and raise awareness about the value of these green spaces. The programme included 18 different actions, such as didactic tours, workshops, community events, social mapping, as well as the permanent maintenance and marking of a network of public paths and creation of a digital map with the different heritage and landscape elements.

The project was developed between 2016 and 2019 by a consortium of partners including local and regional organisations, educational institutions and the local government.

The main leading partner was the local not-for-profit association Associazione Amici dell'Ambiente di Sabbioneta Onlus (Association of Friends of the Environment of Sabbioneta). Other partners include Fondazione Cariplo, as a main funding partner, as well as the Municipality of Sabbioneta, the Mantua and Sabbioneta World Heritage Office and Officina11.

The project aims to improve the connection between the city, its inhabitants and the agricultural landscape that surrounds it, promoting the re-appropriation of the historical elements of the landscape by the local communities and improving their state of conservation. The initiative also has the objective to strengthen the governance of the historic city, bringing together different stakeholders to participate in collaborative decision-making.

Conclusion

By aligning urban interventions with the heritage and landscape values of this serial World Heritage property, the cities of Mantua and Sabbioneta aim to enhance the shared identity of the property while promoting local communities' involvement in its preservation. The projects for the rehabilitation of the historical fish market in Mantua and the embankment system in Sabbioneta aim to restore the historical water systems inside and around the cities, contributing to their liveability and strengthening their attractiveness as touristic destinations.

[Watch the presentation
\(English\)](#)

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Developing sustainable rural tourism in San Gimignano (Italy)

In reaction to the sharp increase in incoming visitors over the last decades, San Gimignano has developed several initiatives to promote sustainable tourism and support jobs and local livelihoods while respecting the town's cultural heritage, ensuring that the historic city with its context and communities plays an important role in the day-to-day management of the World Heritage property.



© Andrea Migliorni

Presentation by Ms Carolina Taddei, Town Councillor for Culture, San Gimignano..

About San Gimignano

San Gimignano is a small town located in Tuscany, in central Italy, with a very rich cultural heritage. The town, with its iconic skyline defined by towers, surrounded by a vine-filled countryside, is a popular tourist destination. As a consequence, tourism is one of the main sectors of employment, together with light industry, public sector and agriculture. The town has an active community life with a population of 7,800 people, and is also home to more than 50 local associations.

San Gimignano was an important relay point for pilgrims travelling to or from Rome on the Via Francigena. The patrician families who controlled the town built around 72 tower-houses (some as high as 50m) as symbols of their wealth and power. Although only 14 have survived, San Gimignano has retained its medieval atmosphere and appearance. The town also has several masterpieces of 14th- and 15th-century Italian art. Source: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

The Historic Centre of San Gimignano was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 under criteria (i), (iii) and (iv). The management of the property is under the responsibility of the city administration (Municipality), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the University of Florence.

Developing sustainable rural tourism

In reaction to the sharp increase in incoming visitors over the last decades, San Gimignano has developed several initiatives to develop sustainable tourism practices that involve the local community, help generate livelihoods, support and respect the surrounding agricultural landscape in synergy with the management of the local World Heritage property.

1. Participation of local associations in tourism

The Municipality actively promotes the involvement of residents and other local stakeholders in the planning and development of tourism. A key partner in this effort is the not-for-profit association Pro Loco di San Gimignano, which manages the local Tourism Information Centre with both professional staff and volunteers.

2. Youth engagement programme

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the Historic Centre of San Gimignano on the World Heritage List, the Municipality engaged a group of young residents aged between 20 and 30 years old to jointly develop a programme of activities to raise awareness about local cultural heritage and to support the involvement of local communities in the co-design of a new management strategy for the World Heritage property. The group included artists and professionals from the creative industries.

The Anniversary took place in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, activities took place mostly online. At the same time, the youth forum served as a platform for young people to support each other during this difficult period.

3. Valdelsa Valdicecina: collaboration with surrounding municipalities

A consortium of eleven municipalities located in the Val d'Elsa and the Val di Cecina, including San Gimignano, are working together to create common territorial strategies leveraging their shared history and agricultural landscape. The initiative aims to define a brand for the landscape region of the two valleys, strengthening its tourism potential and helping to integrate less visited areas and towns into tourism flows.

4. Contado: enhancing the agricultural landscape

Following the observations by the Advisory Bodies at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List, the Municipality has developed strategies to revitalise the agricultural landscape that surrounds the town. The strategies include supporting typical local food productions, such as saffron or Vernaccia wine, made in San Gimignano since the Medieval period. At the same time, cultural paths such as the Via Francigena invite visitors to explore the landscape and the connection with nearby towns.

Since September 2020, a training programme for local farmers developed with the University of Florence has been building their capacity to develop sustainable rural tourism, exploring topics such as communications and graphic design. At the same time, the workshop provided participants with the opportunity to design new tourism strategies and experiences with local farmhouses.

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Heritage Canopy

Literary tourism in the university town of Coimbra (Portugal)

A project to create a digital map of places associated with literature aims to promote sustainable cultural tourism, relieving tourism pressures in the historic areas and encouraging visitors to explore other parts of the city. The platform is developed by a partnership of Portuguese academic institutions.



Presentation by Ms Vivina Carreira, Department of Social and Human Sciences, Polytechnic of Coimbra.

About Coimbra

Coimbra is a city located in central Portugal. It has a population of 150,000 inhabitants. Located on the banks of the river Mondego, Coimbra is famous for its university, one of the oldest in Europe. The University of Coimbra – Alta and Sofia was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2013 under criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi).

Situated on a hill overlooking the city, the University of Coimbra with its colleges grew and evolved over more than seven centuries within the old town. Notable university buildings include the 12th century Cathedral of Santa Cruz and a number of 16th century colleges, the Royal Palace of Alcáçova, which has housed the University since 1537, the Joanine Library with its rich baroque decor, the 18th century Botanical Garden and the University Press, as well as the large “University City” created during the 1940s. The University’s edifices became a reference in the development of other institutions of higher education in the Portuguese-speaking world where it also exerted a major influence on learning and literature. Coimbra offers an outstanding example of an integrated university city with a specific urban typology as well as its own ceremonial and cultural traditions that have been kept alive through the ages (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

Literary tourism in the university town of Coimbra

“Lettered – literature, territory, tourism and education” is an ongoing initiative to create a digital map of the places associated with literature in the city and university of Coimbra. The project, expected to take place between 2020 and 2025, is born out of a partnership between the Municipality of Coimbra, local association RUAS, the University of the Algarve, the Polytechnic of Coimbra, the University of Coimbra and Nova University of Lisbon.

The project will collect data regarding Portuguese literature between the 15th and mid-20th centuries and identify the places associated with key authors and works. Places included are former houses of authors, monuments and statues, schools, coffee shops frequented, places of work, and so on. The data will be stored in a digital data bank and later publicly accessible through a virtual map.

The platform has mainly been developed by researchers working at the partner universities and, to this date, limited funding has been secured. The programme encourages residents to contribute to the platform uploading their own material. Institutional stakeholders, such as local and regional entities, educational agents and tourism-related professionals, are included in the initiative through a consultation process consisting of meetings at the earlier and final stages.

The project “Lettered – literature, territory, tourism and education” aims to build on the rich literary history of Coimbra to promote cultural tourism, diversify the offer and relieve tourism pressures in the historic areas, encouraging visitors to discover different parts of the city and demonstrating the potential for literary tourism to contribute to sustainable economic development. By doing so, the project aims to enhance the protection of the city’s cultural heritage by valorising it through its connection to literature and increasing the connection between local communities and cultural heritage.

Learn more on World
Heritage Canopy

Community-led urban planning in Durham (United Kingdom)

The City of Durham Neighbourhood Plan was developed between 2014 and 2021 following a comprehensive community-centred approach, which included a Neighbourhood Forum, extensive consultations and a public referendum. The resulting plan aims to balance conservation and development in and around the World Heritage site, with a special consideration to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, as well as local heritage values.



Presentation by Ms Jane Gibson, World Heritage site manager; Mr John Lowe and Ms Sue Childs, Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum, with the support of Mr Adam Shanley, Parish Clerk, City of Durham Parish Council.

About the city of Durham

Durham is a historic university city located in northeast England, and one of the best-known medieval cityscapes in Europe. Although small in size, with a population of 43,000 in the urban area and a total area of 32 km², the town acts as the administrative centre for the Durham County, with a population of approximately 500,000 people. The city is home to the World Heritage site Durham Castle and Cathedral, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 under criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi).

Durham Cathedral was built in the late 11th and early 12th centuries to house the relics of St Cuthbert (evangelizer of Northumbria) and the Venerable Bede. It attests to the importance of the early Benedictine monastic community and is the largest and finest example of Norman architecture in England. The innovative audacity of its vaulting foreshadowed Gothic architecture. Behind the cathedral stands the castle, an ancient Norman fortress which was the residence of the prince-bishops of Durham (Summary of Outstanding Universal Value).

According to the site manager, the main challenge facing the World Heritage site in Durham is the need to balance heritage conservation with the needs of a living, modern and evolving city with increasing development pressures.

Regarding the managing framework of the World Heritage site, the property does not have a designated buffer zone. The management of the property for its Outstanding Universal Values and other heritage values relies on the statutory protection of the Durham City Centre Conservation Area designation. Both the Castle and Cathedral are protected by designation, the Castle being Grade 1 listed and the Cathedral being Grade 1 listed and protected through the ecclesiastical protection system. However, the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review on the proposed construction of a new business school located within the Conservation Area raised questions on the need to redefine the boundaries and buffer zone of the property, in particular to preserve the settings and context of the World Heritage site.

City of Durham Neighbourhood Plan

The City of Durham Neighbourhood Plan seeks to control and encourage sustainable urban development that can meet current needs without compromising those of future generations. The vision endeavours all new development to contribute to the long-term sustainable future of Durham City, by ensuring a balanced relationship among environmental, social and economic outcomes. Its area of action includes the World Heritage site “Durham Castle and Cathedral”.

The Neighbourhood Plan is part of the statutory local development framework, alongside the County Durham Plan. Its implementation is under the responsibility of the Parish Council. The plan is expected to cover the period until 2035, subject to reviews every five years. One of the main themes of the plan is the incorporation of urban heritage values and attributes into the planning framework. This includes both the World Heritage site, covered in the Policy H1: Protection and Enhancement of the World Heritage, as well as other conservation areas and wider heritage values.

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced into the English planning system by the Localism Act (2011). They sit alongside the main plan that covers a larger area. Therefore, the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan covers only the area of the City of Durham civil parish and it is complementary to the County Durham Plan that covers the whole county. The local planning authority is Durham County Council; when it takes planning decisions, it must follow the policies in both the County and Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood plans can go into more detail for their local area. The Durham City Neighbourhood Plan contains a policy (H1) that protects and enhances the World Heritage site in more detail than policy 45 of the County Durham Plan. It also contains several policies (H2, G1 – G3) that protect and enhance the urban Conservation Area that is the immediate setting of the World Heritage site, as well as the green areas, including the riverbanks that define the natural setting.

The procedure for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan followed the standard procedure for neighbourhood plans, as defined by the Localism Act 2011 and the Durham County Council:

- Step one: Defining the neighbourhood. The neighbourhood area was established as the area covered by the Durham City Parish Council. The Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum was set up by a group of volunteers prepared to work on developing the plan.
- Step two: Prepare a draft neighbourhood plan. Once the neighbourhood area was approved and designated, the Neighbourhood Planning Forum prepared the plan. This involved:
 - Gathering information about the neighbourhood area, considering local plans, local and national planning policies and any other relevant legislation.
 - Establishing the community's aspirations and priorities.
 - Identifying the key themes and setting out a clear purpose, goals and objectives for the plan.
 - Drafting planning policies to help deliver the objectives of the plan.
 - Understanding whether the plan was likely to have a significant environmental impact.
- Step three: Publicity and consultation. Before formally submitting the plan to the council for examination, the Neighbourhood Planning Forum carried out an iter-

ative process of consultation, inviting comments from people who live, work and carry out business in the area, as well as the Durham County Council and regional and national organisations and agencies. The methods used include:

- Leaflets delivered to every household
- Drop-in sessions
- Discussions with focus groups
- Paper and online questionnaires

After the consultations, the Neighbourhood Planning Forum adjusted the proposal according to the responses received. All meeting minutes, consultation responses and documents produced are publicly available on the website npf.durhamcity.org.uk/.

- Step four: Formally submitting the neighbourhood plan proposal to Durham County Council. The Council ensured that the proposal complies with all relevant legislation, and that all necessary processes and procedures have been carried out. Once the Council ascertained that the plan was in accordance with the legal requirements, they:
 - Publicised the plan for a minimum of 6 weeks and invited representations.
 - Notified specific regional and national organisations and agencies.
- Step five: Independent examination. The plan was checked by an independent examiner to see whether it met set tests known as 'basic conditions'.
- Step six: Referendum. Everyone living in the area of coverage of the neighbourhood plan, who is registered to vote in local elections, was entitled to vote in the referendum. For the neighbourhood plan to proceed, more than 50% of the vote in the referendum had to be in favour of the plan. The Neighbourhood Planning Referendum for the City of Durham Neighbourhood Plan was held on Thursday 6 May 2021. More than 5,000 residents participated in the Referendum, of which 85.6% voted to approve the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Step seven: Bring the neighbourhood plan into force. After the referendum, the County adopted the plan as part of the statutory development plan for the area at a meeting of the Council on 23 June 2021.

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan was rooted on the principles of participatory planning and community involvement. Consequently, managing the large number of stakeholders, such as Durham County Council, Historic England or Durham University, became a major challenge. On the other hand, the project was mostly carried by a volunteer group, which required sustained, long-standing support and commitment from its individual members. Finally, not all proposals from the community consultations were able to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. In order to include all community views, community proposals that were not amenable to formulation as planning policies were collated in the companion document Looking Forwards.

Following the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, a minor boundary extension of the World Heritage site was submitted to the World Heritage Committee. The Committee referred the proposal back to the State Party and recommended that the State Party give consideration to creating a buffer zone, based on the existing Conservation area, in order to protect all the “key views to and from the Castle, Cathedral and town” (Decision 44 COM 8B.59).

Regional takeaways

Latin America and
the Caribbean



Summary

At a glance

Cities and regional governments

- Querétaro (Mexico) – Mr Miguel Antonio Parrodi Espinosa, Mayor
- Guanajuato (Mexico) – Mr Alejandro Navarro, Mayor
- State of Puebla (Mexico) – Mr Sergio Vergara, Secretary for Culture for the State of Puebla

Experts

- Session chair: Mr Eduardo Rojas (architect and planner, lecturer at the Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania)
- Rapporteur: Ms Maya Ishizawa, heritage specialist, member of ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes

World Heritage Cities

Of the 320 World Heritage Cities, 44 are in the Latin America and Caribbean region

Case studies

- Edificio Tassara: A pilot project to rehabilitate a historical building as affordable housing and a community centre in Valparaíso (Chile)
- Historic neighbourhoods of the Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)
- Proposal for a buffer zone for the World Heritage property “Historic Centre of Puebla” (Mexico)
- Local management system of the Historic Town of Guanajuato (Mexico)

Other cities in discussion

Quito (Peru) and Cuenca (Ecuador)

Technical Session 3

The third technical session focused on Latin America and the Caribbean region. The session chair was Mr Eduardo Rojas, architect and planner, Lecturer at the Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. The rapporteur was Ms Maya Ishizawa, heritage specialist, member of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes.

Following opening remarks by the Deputy Director of the World Heritage Centre, Mr Eduardo Rojas began the session by noting the importance of HUL as a turning point in urban heritage management that recognized the different layers of the city. Mr Rojas highlighted the current and potential applications of the approach of the HUL Recommendation in urban management in the region. One of these applications was in building consensus and managing vulnerability. The HUL Recommendation can also be used to adopt an analytic approach to management and the impacts of development. It can introduce an integrated approach to management that profoundly changes policies and stakeholder actions to ensure that heritage is protected, funded and promoted sustainably (citing the examples of Quito and Cuenca). It can be used to empower local authorities to manage their urban landscape by transferring functions, distributing resources, and teaming up with regional and national governments.

Four case studies from the region were presented. The first was on the integrated urban regeneration in the San Francisco district of the Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico), by Mr Sergio Vergara (Culture Director for the State Government of Puebla). Another case study on the efforts by the Municipality of Puebla to establish an effective buffer zone within the historic centre, was shared by Ms Graciela León. A third case study, presented by site manager Ms María José Larrondo Pulgar, concerned the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso, Chile, specifically the restoration of the Tassara building in the Echauren Square area. Finally, Mr Juan Carlos Delgado Zárate, General Director for Environment and Territorial Planning, gave an insight into the case study on the Management Unit of the Historic Centre of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines, and several actions for community engagement.

After online sharing and comments in a Q&A session, rapporteur Ms Maya Ishizawa summarized the conclusions drawn from the studies.

- There is a need to re-think management models and competencies at the municipal and national levels in Latin America. Community participation and engagement is essential, as is multistakeholder governance, incorporating many overlapping competencies and layers of legislation. Implementing HUL can help provide a multilevel, multistakeholder approach that is replicable in different cities while not being 'standardized' or 'one-size-fits-all'.
- As in other regions, there are a wide range of challenges to be addressed: the lack of consensual methodology; overlapping competencies and skills; how to promote good governance; integrating funding from public and private sources; bringing inhabitants back into the heritage areas; climate change; and the interface between rural and urban areas and mobility.

Ms Alba Zamarbide from UNESCO's World Heritage Cities Programme delivered the conclusion, general remarks and invitation to the next sessions.

Watch the recording of
the session (English)

Watch the recording of
the session (Spanish)

Key learnings

Common issues

- Strategies for addressing the role of the historic centre within the larger metropolis, countering depopulation, gentrification and over-tourism, and improving habitability and housing
- Physical and social fabric deterioration, as well as the need for community participation in heritage management and conservation to make it more efficient and effective
- Lack of structures or established mechanisms for integrated management (including integrated planning and legal instruments)
- Alternative financing models, such as economic diversification, private-public sources and innovative funding schemes
- High demand for housing
- The concentration of tourism in historic centres
- Various spatial scales of implementation: territorial planning and buffer zones, the local level (neighbourhood interventions), and the building level for heritage restoration

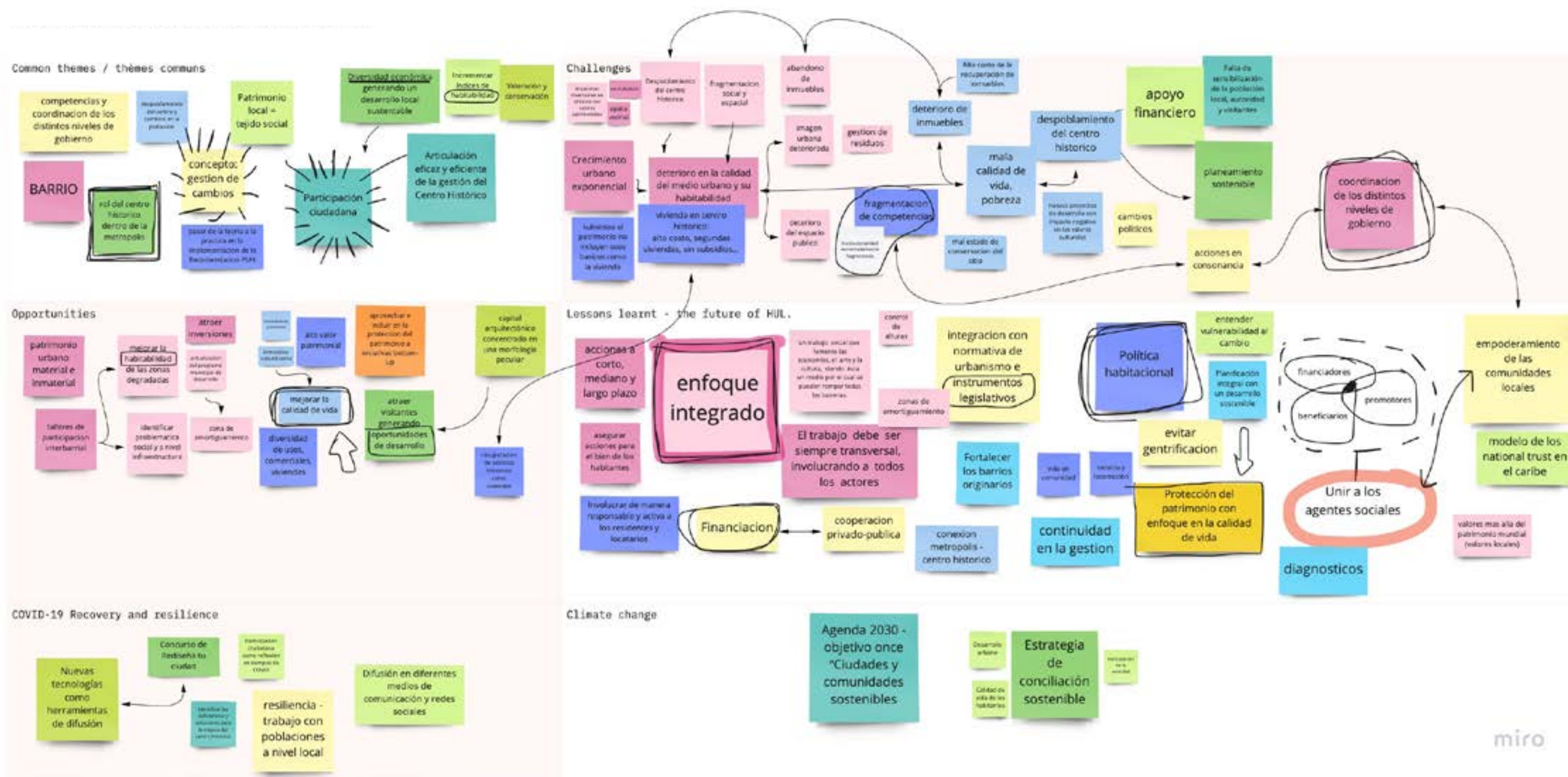
Challenges

- Conflicts of competencies between different agencies and levels of government
- Finding a consensus on methodology
- Good governance over various time periods
- The need to repopulate historic centres
- A general lack of resources (financing, capacity)

Opportunities

- From a legal perspective, a way forward on legislation and instruments to help harmonize regulations
- Longer-term decentralization and localized regulations
- A platform for coordination and dialogue among governance stakeholders
- Technical: a means for providing diagnosis and assessments

Latin America and the Caribbean - visual summary of discussions

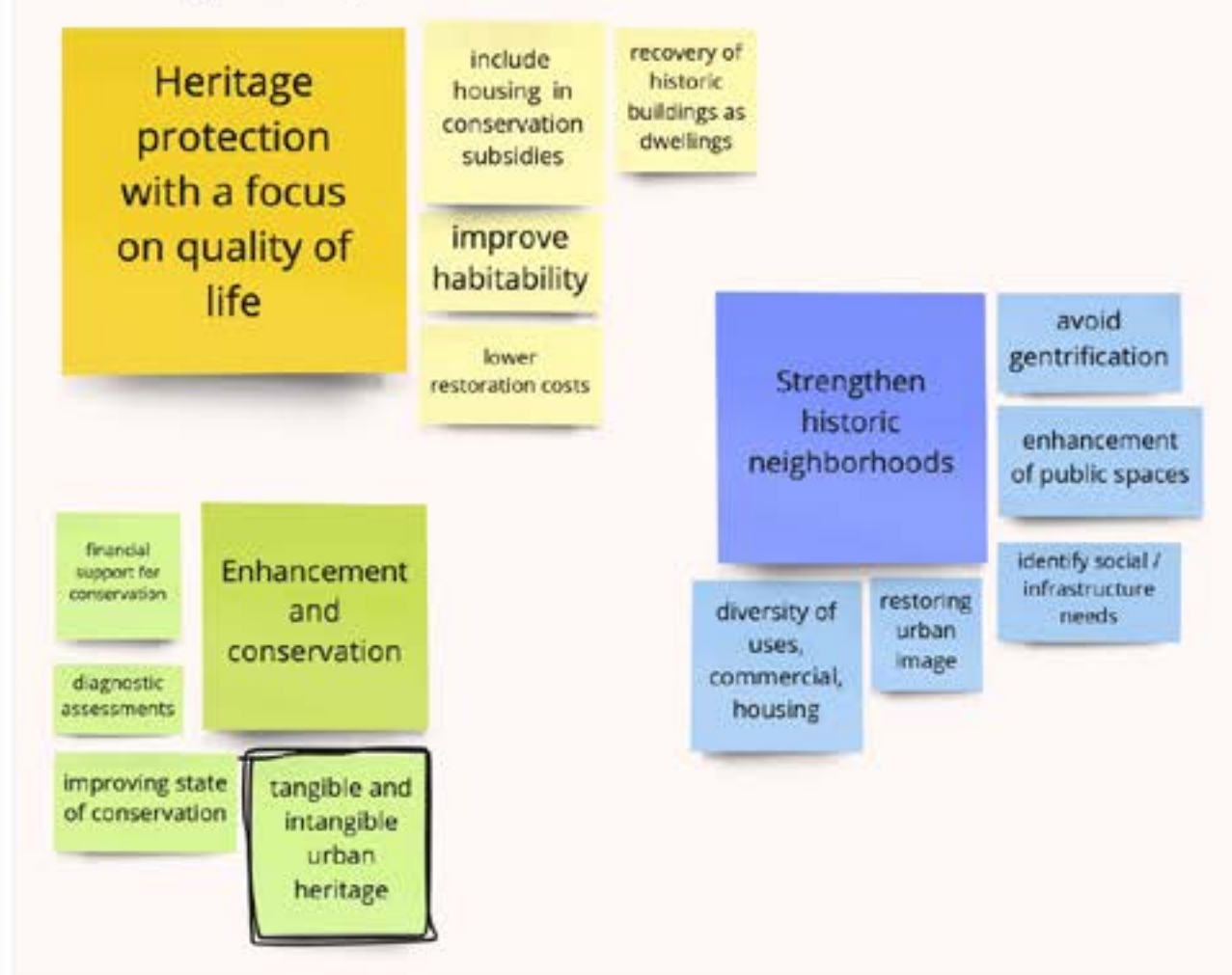


Latin America and the Caribbean - key themes

Governance



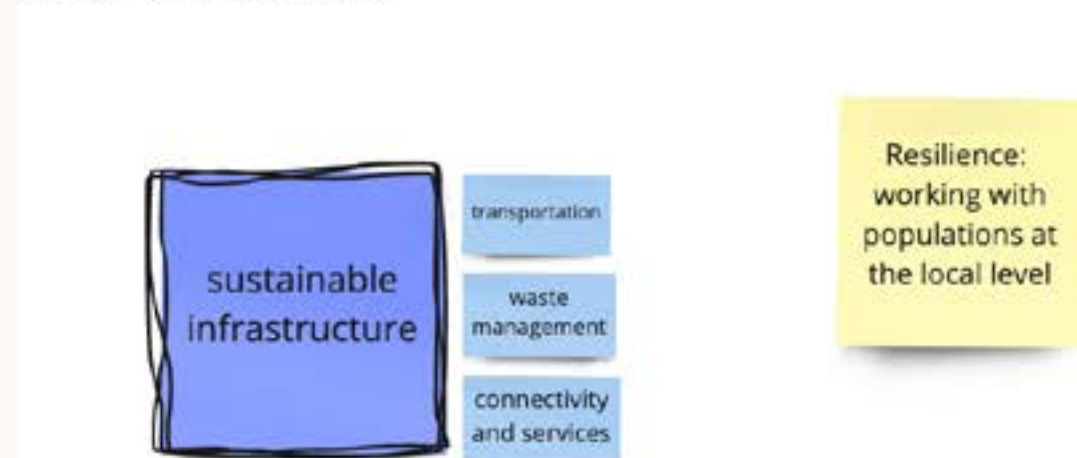
Conserving urban places



Including people



Green and resilient



Case studies

Edificio Tassara: a pilot project to rehabilitate a historical building as affordable housing and community centre in Valparaíso (Chile)

A consortium of public partners is working to rehabilitate the historical building “Edificio Tassara” as a mixed-used building including social housing, retail and community spaces. The initiative aims to enhance the liveability of the historic centre and provide affordable rental housing for local residents.



Edificio Tassara before the works
© Hemorag, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia

Presentation by Ms María José Larrondo Pulgar, site manager of the World Heritage property “Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso”.

About the city of Valparaíso

Valparaíso is a coastal city in central Chile, 115 km from the capital, Santiago de Chile. Capital of the region of the same name, the urban area is home to nearly 300.000 inhabitants. Valparaíso is home to the World Heritage site “Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso”, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2003 under criterion (iii). With an area of 67.7 ha (including core area and buffer zone), the site represents approximately 1% of the total urban area.

The State of Conservation Reports presented to the World Heritage Committee between 2013 and 2021 highlight issues related to the management and legal frameworks, which have led to management issues and improper development projects in the vicinity of the site.

The State of Conservation of the property was examined by the World Heritage Committee in its 44th Session in 2021.

- On the one hand, the World Heritage Committee noted with appreciation that regional agencies dealing with heritage protection and an Interinstitutional Round Table have been established, and that initiatives for the restoration and conservation of elevators and historic buildings are in place.
- On the other hand, the Committee encouraged the finalisation and submission of the Risk Management Plan for the property and noted the need to address the comments by the National Monuments Council regarding an ongoing project by adopting appropriate corrective measures.
- Finally, the Committee requested the State Party to send information on ongoing and proposed development projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before major decisions are taken, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines (Decision: 44 COM 7B.165).

Edificio Tassara: a pilot project to rehabilitate a historical building as affordable housing and community centre

In the Chilean city of Valparaíso, a consortium of public partners is planning the rehabilitation of the historical building “Edificio Tassara” as a mixed-used building including social housing, retail and community spaces.

“The Edificio Tassara” is a historical building located in Plaza Echaurren, in Barrio Puerto, near the harbour. The building houses Bar Liberty, the oldest bar in Valparaíso, founded in 1887, and epicenter of the *cueca porteña*, a local musical genre with a strong participation of young people who have reinvigorated this cultural movement.

The pilot project aims to pave the way for a new model for the renovation and reuse of historic building, addressing some of the issues affecting the city, such as the abandonment of the city centre by its inhabitants and the construction of high-rise housing projects in the surrounding hills. As an alternative, the project proposes the recovery of historic buildings in the city centre to provide affordable rental housing. The pilot project aims to fight the touristification and gentrification of the historic centre, and instead provide affordable, quality housing options for local residents.

The initiative is born of the cooperation between different public institutions: the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urbanism; the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage; and the Municipality of Valparaíso. The project development started in 2017, and building works are expected to commence shortly.

While the restoration of the Tassara building is only a punctual proposal and does not propose a complete solution to Valparaíso’s conservation and management challenges, the project could open the way for other innovative solutions that address housing availability and the liveability of the historic centre. In the future, the project aims to extend beyond publicly owned buildings to bring together efforts and funds devoted to housing and heritage conservation.

Watch the presentation
and discussions (VO)

Watch the translation
(English)

Local management system of the Historic Town of Guanajuato (Mexico)

In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of the World Heritage site, a new local Management Unit has been created in the historic centre of Guanajuato. Depending on the Municipality, and in close coordination with national and local institutions, the unit aims to create a central coordination office dedicated to the conservation and sustainable development of the historic centre.



© Nathaniel C. Sheetz

Presentation by Eng. Juan Carlos Delgado Zárate, Director-General for Environment and Planning, Municipality of Guanajuato,

About Guanajuato

Guanajuato is a city located in central Mexico. The city is home to the World Heritage site Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines, inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1988 under criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi).

Founded by the Spanish in the early 16th century, Guanajuato became the world's leading silver-extraction centre in the 18th century. This past can be seen in its 'subterranean streets' and the 'Boca del Infierno', a mineshaft that plunges a breathtaking 600 m. The town's fine Baroque and neoclassical buildings, resulting from the prosperity of the mines, have influenced buildings throughout central Mexico. The churches of La Compañía and La Valenciana are considered to be among the most beautiful examples of Baroque architecture in Central and South America. Guanajuato was also witness to events which changed the history of the country (Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value).

According to the site manager, the city presents both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, Guanajuato is rich in both tangible and intangible heritage, and remains a lively urban centre. This cultural capital has allowed the development of the tourism sector, bringing social and economic development opportunities. On the other hand, there is a general lack of awareness about the value of this cultural heritage, which translates into a lack of care and disinterest in its conservation, and sustainable financing for heritage conservation remains a challenge.

Creating a local World Heritage management system in Guanajuato

In order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of site management, a new local Management Unit for the Historic Centre of Guanajuato was established in 2020. The creation of the Management Unit, which acts as a central coordination unit for the safekeeping of the city's cultural heritage, was included in the 2018 Management Plan. Its goal is to ensure the safekeeping and conservation of the historic centre while improving its habitability and promoting sustainable local economic development. The Management Unit is supported by the local office of the National Institute of Anthropology

and History (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, INAH), the University of Guanajuato, professional colleges and civil society. While the Management Unit is in charge of the day-to-day running of the site, statutory processes such as reactive monitoring continue to be carried out through the Directorate of World Heritage in the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

The Management Unit has a strong commitment to raise awareness about the heritage values of the city and promote residents' involvement in the management of urban heritage. To this end, it has carried out a number of initiatives, such as the public competition "Re-design your city: How would your ideal historic centre be?" and the community workshops "Neighbourhoods of Guanajuato and their cultural heritage".

- The public competition "Re-design your city: How would your ideal historic centre be?" was created in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the UNESCO Campaign #ShareOurHeritage. For this, the Management Unit partnered with Guanajuato's Institute of Architects (Colegio de Arquitectos Guanajuatenses A.C.) to create a general call for children, youth and adults based in Guanajuato to express their desires and hopes for the historic centre through visual and written means. The call was published through social media and official communication channels. Of the 60 proposals received, five were chosen for further development and implementation by the Municipality.
- The community workshops "Neighbourhoods of Guanajuato and their cultural heritage" aim to explore the history and architecture of each neighbourhood, linking it with the living testimonials of the local communities and enhancing the sense of ownership of the residents. The project is a coordinated effort between the Management Unit, the Department of History in the University of Guanajuato, and Guanajuato's Institute of Architects. The programme started in March 2021 and is expected to carry on until November 2021 for a total of 9 sessions. Due to the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the workshops take place both in presence and online.

One year after the creation of the Management Unit, the site manager reports that the general level of awareness and understanding of the urban heritage of Guanajuato has increased. While the development of the Management Unit was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation motivated the team to adopt innovative strategies involving new technologies, which have increased the reach of its activities.

Read more this case study
on World Heritage Canopy

Historic neighbourhoods of the Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

In order to address the depopulation of the historic centre and promote sustainable cultural tourism, the Government of Puebla has developed a regeneration programme that aims to bring together private and public investment to improve the state of conservation and habitability of the historic areas.



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Presentation by Mr Sergio Arturo de la Cruz Vergara Berdejo, Secretary for Culture, Gobierno de Puebla.

About Puebla

Puebla is a large city in east-central Mexico, situated about 100 km east of Mexico City, at the foot of the Popocatepetl volcano. With an area of over 500km², it is the fourth largest city in the country. The Historic Centre of Puebla was inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1987 under criteria (ii) and (iv). The World Heritage site comprises an area of 6.9 km², including 391 urban blocks and approximately 3,000 listed buildings.

490 years after its foundation, the historic city of Puebla is being shaped by different urban phenomena. On the one hand, the historic centre has transitioned from being a residential area to a commercial one and a reduction in the number of local residents has been noticed. The demographic changes have been accompanied by social and cultural changes, which have included social degradation and worsening state of conservation of historic buildings due to lack of maintenance.

Eleven State of Conservation Reports about the Historic Centre of Puebla have been presented to the World Heritage Committee since 1993 and 2018. The 2018 State of Conservation Report referred to the construction of a cable car, the adoption of the Partial Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Historical Centre of Puebla and its corresponding Management Plan, and the effects of the 2017 earthquake. The Committee recognised that progress was being made and requested further updates regarding the implementation of the management plan and the reconstruction efforts after the 2017 earthquake (Decision 42 COM 7B.40).

Urban Regeneration Programme of the historic neighbourhoods

In order to improve the conservation and habitability of the historic areas of the city, the regional government of Puebla has developed an urban regeneration programme that brings together private and public funds to promote sustainable urban development and heritage conservation. The plan considers cultural heritage, in its tangible and intangible expressions, as an important element to improve the habitability of historic areas while preserving the common values that define their communities.

During the second half of the 20th century, the urban area of Puebla grew at a rapid pace. The difference in scales and speed of urban development led to the abandonment of the historic areas, real-estate speculation, social and spatial fragmentation, and the degradation of built heritage. A weakening social fabric and neglected conservation have led to a deterioration of the urban image, which negatively affects tourism development.

In response to this urban phenomenon and to address local needs through actions on the middle and long-term, the regional administration developed an urban regeneration project for the historic centre. The proposal aims to develop integrated projects that promote the conservation of the historic area of San Francisco while increasing the quality of life of local residents. The project aims to promote a vision for an inclusive, integrated and connected city through urban planning and design, governance, legislation and financial actions. It includes a number of actions such as:

- Community participation workshops to identify social and infrastructure needs.
- Promote heritage conservation and improve the housing stock through restoration interventions and fiscal incentives.
- Public policies for the regeneration of public spaces.
- Enhancements to urban infrastructure and public services.
- Promote sustainable tourism projects that support local livelihoods.
- Guide public investment in a way that promotes social and economic recovery, identifying key areas for interventions such as public spaces and infrastructure.
- Guide private investment in line with conservation and development goals, identifying key areas for interventions, such as housing, health, markets, education and museums.

The main challenges faced by the programme relate to stakeholder management. On the one hand, the integrated regeneration programme had to ensure political agreements and coordination between the three different levels of government (local, regional and national). On the other hand, it was necessary to raise awareness and bring together the different communities that inhabit the historic areas, and who were not necessarily aware or interested in the project.

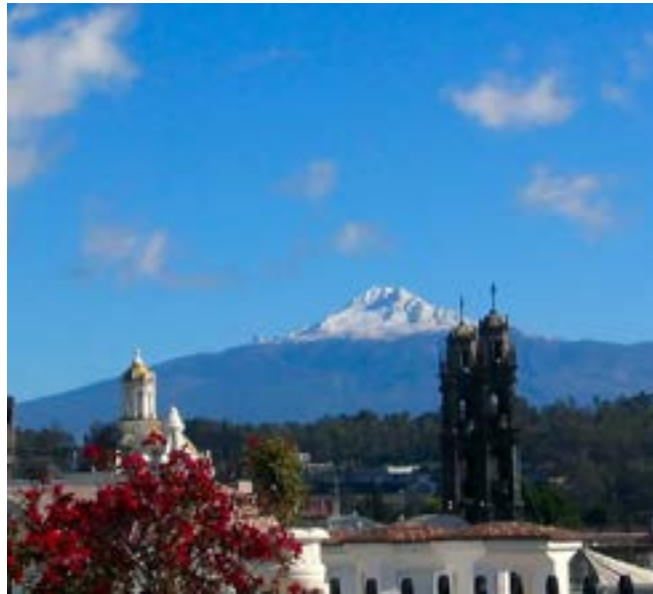
By developing an integrated plan for the urban regeneration of the historic areas, the Government of Puebla aims to make the city more inclusive, integrated and connected. The programme aims to strengthen the tourism potentials of the site and to promote sustainable local development, as well as improve the social and physical environment of local communities and their quality of life.

Watch the presentation
and discussions (VO)

Watch the translation
(English)

Proposal for a World Heritage buffer zone in the Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico)

The Historic Centre of Puebla is planning to develop a buffer zone for the property, originally listed in 1987. In doing so, the site wants to ensure the conservation of the setting, views and vistas of the site and better manage new development around the property through additional planning controls, creating a gradual transition between the historic centre and the rest of the metropolitan area. The project is at an early proposal stage and has not yet been discussed with national authorities.



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Presentation by Ms Graciela León Matamoros, site manager of the World Heritage property “Historic Centre of Puebla”.

About Puebla

Puebla is a large city in east-central Mexico, situated about 100 km east of Mexico City, at the foot of the Popocatepetl volcano. With an area of over 500km², it is the fourth largest city in the country. The Historic Centre of Puebla was inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1987 under criteria (ii) and (iv). The World Heritage site comprises an area of 6.9 km², including 391 urban blocks and approximately 3,000 listed buildings.

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Proposal for a World Heritage buffer zone

In order to enhance the conservation of the World Heritage site, and following the approach of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, the World Heritage management office is planning to develop a buffer zone around the core zone. The buffer zone will include a height control precinct in order to preserve key views to and from the historic centre.

Departing from an initial offset of the perimeter of the historic area, the buffer zone aims to become a workable plan following the street layouts. It will cover an area of 9.6 km², further defining different districts with permissible heights, going from 12m in the plots immediately adjacent to the property to up to 42m in certain areas. The strategy aims to create a gradual transition between the historic centre and the rest of the metropolitan area.

The planning tool is currently under development by the local authorities. To this date, national authorities have not yet been consulted in the development of the project. After community consultations with local communities and national authorities, the creation of the buffer zone should be approved by the World Heritage Committee using the procedure for a minor boundary modification (as per paragraphs 107 and 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines). Should the request be approved, the buffer zone will be included in the World Heritage site management plan and the update of the Partial Programme for Sustainable Urban Development in the Historic Centre of Puebla.

By designing a buffer zone with additional development controls, the World Heritage site of the Historic Centre of Puebla wants to be better prepared to manage change and development pressures, in a way that can promote the integration of new development with the historical context. At the same time, the establishment of clear planning guidelines and regulations aims to bring certainty for investors, guiding new development in line with the conservation and management goals for the site.

Watch the presentation
and discussions (VO)

Watch the translation
(English)

Note: The cases shared in this report address heritage protection practices in World Heritage sites and beyond. The project results presented in this report do not infer any type of recognition or inclusion in the World Heritage List or any of its thematic programmes. The practices shared are not assessed in any way by the World Heritage Centre or presented here as model practices, nor do they represent complete solutions to heritage management problems. The views expressed by experts, stakeholders and site managers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Heritage Centre. The practices and views shared here are included as a way to provide insights and expand the dialogue on heritage conservation, with a view to further urban heritage management practice in general.

ANNEX: REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

First Name	Last Name	Country	Institution	City
Ernold	SHAHO	Albania	RAPA Korca (Regional administration protected areas of Korca)	Pogradec
Nerxhana	Tallushi	Albania	Ministry of Culture	Kavaje
wissem	cherif	Algeria		
messaoud	elgharbi	Algeria		M'sila
Samia	Bentoumi	Algeria		SETIF
Samia	Bentoumi	Algeria		SETIF
Samia	Bentoumi	Algeria		SETIF
Sanaa	Niar	Algeria	ICOMOS	Oran
Niar	Sanaa	Algeria		Oran
Fatima Zohra	Bouziani	Algeria		
messaoud	elgharbi	Algeria	Direction de la culture M'sila	M'sila
kheireddine	GUERROUCHE	Algeria	EPAU	Alger
Samia	Bentoumi	Algeria	Wilaya de Sétif	Sétif
Samia	Bentoumi	Algeria		Sétif
messaoud	elgharbi	Algeria		M'sila
kheireddine	GUERROUCHE	Algeria		Alger
Diana	Giambiagi	Argentina		Buenos Aires
cira	szklowin	Argentina	CAAP Argentine Center of Landscape Architects	Buenos Aires
Graciela	Aguilar	Argentina	Universidad de Buenos Aires. Centro para la conservación del Patrimonio Urbano y Rural	Buenos Aires
Barbara	GRANATELLI	Argentina	dl argentina	
MARIA GABRIELA	SANTIBAÑEZ	Argentina	ICOMOS Argentina	Mendoza
Graciela	Aguilar	Argentina		Buenos Aires
cira	szklowin	Argentina		buenos aires
MARIA GABRIELA	SANTIBAÑEZ	Argentina		San Martín

Miguel Angel	Hildmann	argentina		
Ana	Bajcura	Argentina		Moreno
Eliana	Bormida	Argentina		Mendoza
Monica	Kuscich	Argentina		Buenos Aires
Ani	Hovhannisyan	Armenia		Yerevan
Hannah	Fairbridge	Australia		Melbourne
Tim Paul		Australia		Fairfield
Olufemi	Adetunji	Australia		Jesmond
Amanda	Bacon	Australia		Melbourne
Hannah	Fairbridge	Australia		Melbourne
Olufemi	Adetunji	Australia	University of Newcastle, Australia	Jesmond
Raquel	Tardin-Coelho	Australia		Perth
Susan	Fayad	Australia		Ballarat
Olufemi	Adetunji	Australia		Jesmond
David	Logan	Australia		Sydney
Kristal	Buckley	Australia		
Elizabeth	Vines	Australia		Adelaide
Alexander	Würfl	Austria		
Susanne	Mayer	Austria	City of Salzburg	Salzburg
Loredana	Scuto	Austria		Vienna
Florian	Meixner	Austria		
Ruth	Proeckl	Austria		Vienna
Johannes	Riegler	Austria		Vienna
Gertraud	Strempl-Ledl	Austria		Graz
Bertram Werle		Austria		
Mohamed	Ziane Bouziane	Bahrain	Arab Region- al Centre for World Heritage	
Khansa	Mokdad	Bahrain		
Ghassan	Chemali	Bahrain		Manama
Ebrahim	Alkhalifa	Bahrain	ARC-WH	manama
Manivannan	Rajendran	Bahrain	Ls	
Michal	Wosinski	Bahrain	Bahrain Au- thority for Culture and Antiquities	Manama
Miray	Hasaltun Wosinski	Bahrain	Baca	

kawshik	saha	Bangladesh		sylhet
Md Mahabur	Rahaman	Bangladesh	ICOMOS	Leipzig
kawshik	saha	Bangladesh	SUST	sylhet
Sharif Shams	Imon	Bangladesh	ICOMOS Bangladesh	
Arifa	Tamanna	Bangladesh	Southeast University	Dhaka
kawshik	saha	Bangladesh		sylhet
Geoffrey	Ramsey	Barbados		
Sheron	Johnson	Barbados	Division of Culture	
Terry	Vanterpool-Fox	Barbados	Barbados Tourism Mar- keting Inc	Bridgetown
Alissandra	Cummins	Barbados	Barbados Mu- seum and His- torical Society	Bridgetown
Piet	Geleyns	Belgium		
GiannaLia	Cogliandro Beyens	Belgium		Brussels
Piet	Geleyns	Belgium	Flanders Heritage	
Ruba	Saleh	Belgium	ICHEC Brus- sels Manage- ment School	Brussels
Ruba	Saleh	Belgium		Brussels
Guillaume	HOLLO	Benin		Abomey
Bidosessi Marc	KPATCHA	Benin		Abomey
Bertin	KPAKPA	Benin		Abomey
Charlotte	Andrews	Bermuda		
Giovanna Isabel	Gonzales Saracho	BOLIVIA		
Sinisa	Sesum	Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Ulisses	Lins	Brazil		BELO HORI- ZONTE
Maria de Lourdes	Martins Alves de Sousa	Brazil		Belo Horizonte
José Antonio	Hoyuela Jayo	Brazil		Rio de Janeiro
Maria de Lourdes	Martins Alves de Sousa	Brazil	UFMG - es- tudante	Belo Horizonte
Murilo	Pereira dos Santos	Brazil		Brasília

Claudia	Andrade	Brazil		Belo Horizonte
Betina	Adams	Brazil		Florianópolis
Daniele	Paulino	Brazil		Sao Paulo
Laura	Lage	Brazil	FMC-BH	Belo Horizonte
Giulia	Ribeiro Barão	Brazil	IPHAN	Brasília
Daniele	Paulino	Brazil	Penn State	Sao Paulo
Ricardo	Souza	Brazil		Brasília
Milena	Krachanova	Bulgaria	Centre for Cultural Her- itage and Architecture	Sofia
Milena	Krachanova	Bulgaria		Sofia
Claudio	Ramos	Cabo Verde		
Carlos Alberto	De Carvalho	Cabo Verde		Praia
Jaylson	Monteiro	Cabo Verde		Praia
Carlos Alberto	De Carvalho	Cabo Verde	Instituto do Patrimonio Cultural - IPC	Praia
Abdoul-Aziz	Yaouba	Cameroun	Commission Nationale du Cameroun pour l'UNESCO	Yaoundé
Dinu	Bumbaru	Canada	Héritage Montréal	Montréal
Fergus	Maclaren	Canada		Chelsea
Dinu	Bumbaru	Canada		Montréal
paulina	kaplan	Chile		Concón
Paula	Yanez	Chile		olmue
Gabriela	Lozano	Chile		Valparaíso
Marcela	Hurtado	Chile		Valparaíso
María Isabel	Fuentes Marcel	Chile		IQUIQUE
Eugenio	Sahady	Chile		Santiago
paulina	kaplan	Chile	ICOMOS CHILE	Concón
María	Larrondo	Chile	Municipalidad de Valparaíso	Valparaíso
Andrea	Ortega	Chile	PUC	Santiago
Ana	Vergara	Chile	Colectivo Bauhaus 99	Chillán
Thalía	Valdenegro Huircán	Chile		Viña del Mar
Francisco	Bustamante	Chile		Valparaíso
Montserrat		Chile		Valparaiso

liang	peng	China		Beijing
JIETING	PEI	China		SHANGHAI
Kanda	XU	China		
liang	peng	China		
Marie-Noël	Tournoux	China		
JIETING	PEI	China		
YAN	SUN	China		Beijing
Anna Paola	Pola	China		Shanghai
Yong	Shao	China	Tongji Uni- versity	Shanghai
Sherry	Zhang	China	‘澳门旅游学院	
Anna	Kwong	China	Anna Kwong Architects & Associates	Hong Kong
YUYIN		China	iftm	
Xi	Luo	China	WHITR-AP	
XINYUAN	ZHANG	China	University of Tsukuba	
ZIQI	YUAN	China		Shanghai
Sherry	Zhang	China		
yitong	ma	China		
bisu		China		
Charlene	Wang	China		
XINYUAN	ZHANG	China		
Sherry	Zhang	China		Jinan
Li	XIE	China		Beijing
Kwong	Anna	China		Hong Kong
HP		China		
‘凌云	‘李	China		
Li	Xintian	China		Shanghai
Li	Xintian	China		Shanghai
XU	KANDA	China	Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & De- sign Institute	Shanghai
Li	Xintian	China	tongji uni- versity	Shanghai
‘中峰	‘羅	China		‘文山區
SHAO Yong		China		
‘李心恬		China		
Luis Eduardo	Puche	Colombia		Montería

Luis	Sáenz	Colombia		Bogota
JESÚS	CABALLERO	Colombia		Bucaramanga
Paula	Stipanovic	Colombia	ICOMOS Co- lombia	Boogotá
Mariana	Patiño	Colombia	Patrimonio Urbano Co- lombiano	Chia
Jorge Enrique	Vergara	Colombia	Independiente	Bogota
Augusto	Caballero	Colombia	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA	BUCARA- MANGA
EDITH	SALAS	Colombia	ICOMOS CO- LOMBIA	CARTAGENA DE INDIA
Maria	Beltran	Colombia	CEPA centro de estudios del patrimonio	Armenia Quindio
María Claudia	López	Colombia	Independent Consultant	Bogota
Juan Pablo	Olmos Lorduy	Colombia	Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana	Montería
Celina	Rincon	Colombia	Ministerio de Cultura	Bogota
Celina	Rincon	Colombia		Bogota
Juliana	Forero	Colombia		Paris
Martha	Fajardo	Colombia		Bogotá
Maria	Beltran	Colombia		Armenia Quindio
Jorge Enrique	Vergara	Colombia		Bogota
Ofelia	Baquero Vergara	Colombia		Bogotá
Linda	Rodulfo	Colombia		Montería
Juan Pablo	Olmos Lorduy	Colombia		Montería
Mariana	Patiño	Colombia		Chia
María Claudia	López	Colombia		Bogota
EDITH	SALAS	Colombia		Cartagena
Zaida	Nassif	Colombia		Montería
Elisée Napari	YEO	Côte d'Ivoire	Universi- té Nangui Abrogoua	
Affoh	Gueneguez	Côte d'Ivoire		Abidjan
Anne	Lemaistre	Côte d'Ivoire		Abidjan
Maïmouna	CAMARA	Côte d'Ivoire		Abidjan

Massiami Sidney	KONÉ	Côte d'Ivoire	Association Massiami	Abidjan
Djako	Koutouan Marilyne	Côte d'Ivoire	Université	Abidjan
Djakaridja	OUATTARA	Côte d'Ivoire	Commission Nationale Ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO	ABIDJAN
Massiami Sidney	KONÉ	Côte d'Ivoire		Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire
Djakaridja	OUATTARA	Côte d'Ivoire		ABIDJAN
Félicité	SOUMAHORO	Côte d'Ivoire		Abidjan
Nataša	Urošević	Croatia		Pula
Olga	Rufins Machin	Cuba		Havana
Caroline	Manuel	Curacao	Ministry of Traffic, transport and urban planning	Willemstad
Caroline	Manuel	Curacao		Willemstad
Katerina	Starkova	Czechia		
Lada	Pekárková	Czechia	Ministry of Culture	Prague
Vera	Kucova	Czechia	National Heritage Institute	Prague
Thomas	Brogren	Denmark	Realdania	Copenhagen
Mathilde	Kirkegaard	Denmark	Aarhus School of Architecture	Copenhagen
Claus-Peter	Echter	Deutschland	ICOMOS CIVVIH	Munich
Gregory	Rabess	Dominica		Commonwealth of Dominica
Romualda	Hyacinth	Dominica	UNESCO	Dominica
Annabel	Hiraldó	Dominican Republic	Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Monumental del Ministerio de Cultura	Santo Domingo
ESTEBAN	PRIETO	Dominican Republic		Santo Domingo
Diana	Martínez	Dominican Republic	Ayuntamiento del Distrito Nacional	Santo Domingo
Dora	Arizaga	Ecuador	Dora Arizaga	Quito

María	Plaza	Ecuador		Cuenca
Amr	Abdellkarim	Egypt		Giza
Alaa	EL-HABASHI	Egypt		
Amr	El Far	Egypt		Cairo
Ahmed	Shaikhon	Egypt	MoTA	Egypt
Manar	AlGammal	Egypt	October 6 University	Cairo
Sherif	Elsheikh	Egypt	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to UNESCO	
Heidi	Shalaby	Egypt	NOUH	Cairo
Ahmad	Sayed	Egypt		Fayoum
Mahmoud Abd El Bast	Mahmoud	Egypt		Cairo
sherif	Elsheikh	Egypt		
Riham	Arram	Egypt		
MEDHANIE	TEKLEMARIAM	Eritrea	Asmara Her- itage Office	Asmara
Getu	assefa	Ethiopia	UNESCO	Ethiopia
Vereniki	Nalio	Fiji		Suva
Emilie	Rousseau	France		Paris
Alba	Zamarbide	France		Paris
Kassandra	david	France		paris
Eamon	Drumm	France		PARIS
Hélène	Antoni	France		Strasbourg
FORERO	JULIANA	France		Paris
Auriane	Massé	France		Paris
Ayekoro	Kossou	France		Paris
Jamel E.	Ben Abdallah	France		Paris
Edith	Lauton	France		
Emilie	Rousseau	France		
Cathy	Muller	France		
Kassandra	david	France		
Marine	GHIDIONESCO	France		
Hélène	Antoni	France		
David	Gandreau	France		
Eamon	Drumm	France		
DOMINIQUE	CASSAZ	France		
Caroline	Wermuth	France		

Ayekoro	Kossou	France		
Kassandra	david	france		paris
Eamon	Drumm	France		Paris
Agnes		France		Strasbourg
Mariana	Martins	France		Sèvres
Dode Heim	Houehounha	France		Paris [Paris]
Feng	Jing	France		PARIS
Mechtild	ROSSLER	France	UNESCO	PARIS
Jyoti	Hosagrahar	France	UNESCO	
Marielle	Richon	France	Former UNES- CO WHC staff	Paris
Federico	Rudari	France	UNESCO	
Anne	Besançon	France	Institut Par- is Région	
Reka	Viragos	France	UNESCO/WHC	Paris
Alyssa	Barry	France	UNESCO	
Minja	Yang	France	ex-UNESCO	Bonnieux
Nao	Hayashi	France	UNESCO	Paris
Sachiko	HARAGUCHI	France	UNESCO	
Philippe	LAMY	France	Mairie	Lyon
Vigneswarana- than	Tharmila	France	unesco	
Ayekoro	Kossou	France	UNESCO	Paris
Lateefah	Alwazzan	France	UNESCO	
Carlota	Marijuan Rodriguez	France	UNESCO	
Auriane	Massé	France	Unesco	Paris
Francesco	Bandarin	France		Paris
Thomas	Vonier	France		Paris
Alcira	Sandoval Ruiz	France		
Brendan	Cassar	France		paris
Auriane	Massé	France		Paris
Saori	Machimura	France		
May	Shaer	France		
David	Stehl	France		
Fatma	Derouiche	France		
Helene Antoni		France		
Cathy	Muller	France		
Claus-Peter	Echter	Germany		Munich

Armenat, M. Stiftung Wel- terbe im Harz		Germany		Goslar
Thomas	Schmitt	Germany		
Karl-Uwe	Mahler	Germany		
Jean	Anglin	Germany	UNDP	
Anna	Guynutdinova	Germany	btu	Cottbus
Pratiti	Joshi	Germany	BTU Cottbus	
Patricia	Alberth	Germany	City of Bam- berg	
Md Mahabur	Rahaman	Germany		Leipzig
Pratiti	Joshi	Germany		
Jean	Anglin	Germany		Bonn
Jean	Anglin	Germany		Bonn
Patricia	Alberth	Germany		
Sophia	Dombrowski	Germany		Worldherit- agesite City of Quedliburg
Kwadwo Oteng	Owusu	Ghana		
RICHARDSON	COMMEY FIO	Ghana	National Commission on Culture	Accra
Anastasia	PAPARIS	Greece	ARCHI.POLIS Dr Anastasia Paparisi Archi- tects & Town Planners	Veroia
SOFIA	VGERINOU KOLONIAS	Greece	ICOMOS HELLENIC	Athens
Dimitra	Konsta	Greece	Natural En- vironment and Climate Change Agency	Athens
Lee	Minaidis	Greece	Organization of World Her- itage Cities	Rhodes
DESPOINA	EFRAIMIDOU	Greece		Giannitsa
Maria Fernanda	Castellanos	Guatemala		Guatemala
María Gabriela	Alonzo	Guatemala	Universidad Rafael Landívar	
Monica	Lara	Guatemala	Cnpag	La Antigua Guatemala

María Elena	Molina Soto	Guatemala	Educati- va USAC	Guatemala
Gloria	Lara-Pinto	Honduras	ICOMOS Honduras	Tegucigalpa
Maria	Perez	Honduras		Tegucigalpa
Alejandra	Gámez	Honduras		Tegucigalpa
Alexandra	Bodnar	Hungary		Budapest
Mihir	Narayan	India		Patna
Pooja	Agrawal	India		Jaipur
NOUMAN	SIDDIQUI	India		NEW DELHI
Vedakumar	Manikonda	India		hyderabad
MONIKA	SHARMA	India		JAIPUR
Shalini	Ravikumar	India		
Vedakumar	Manikonda	India		
Ashish T		India		
MONIKA	SHARMA	India		
Shahzeb	Athar	India		Delhi
NOUMAN	SIDDIQUI	India		NEW DELHI
Vedakumar	Manikonda	India		hyderabad
MANISH	CHAKRABORTI	India		KOLKATA
SHIKHA	JAIN	India		GURGAON
MONIKA	SHARMA	India		JAIPUR
Gitanjali	Rao	India		Hubli
Parul	.	India		Jaipur
Ashish	Trambadia	India		Ahmedabad
Pooja	Agrawal	India		Jaipur
SHIRLEY	BALLANEY	India		AHMEDABAD
Smita Datta	Makhija	India		New Delhi
SHIRLEY	BALLANEY	India		AHMEDABAD
Priyanka	Panjwani	India		
Neha	Dewan	India		New Delhi
Shahzeb	Athar	India		Delhi
Nachiket		India		Pune
Vedangi	Deshpande	India		Dehradun
Vedakumar	Manikonda	India		hyderabad
Riyaz	Tayyibji	India		Ahmedabad
Nitya	Khendry	India		Jaipur
Anuradha	Chaturvedi	India		Delhi
ADITI	SHARMA	India		Amritsar

Meena	Gautam	India	NATIONAL MU- SEUM INSTITUE	New Delhi
Gopika	Girissan	India	School of Plan- ning and Archi- tecture Bhopal	Thrissur District
Priyanka	Singh	India	Independent consultant on heritage conservation	
Natasha	Khaitan	India	AKTC	HYDERABAD
Pooja	Agrawal	India	DRONAH	Jaipur
Neema	Parihar	India	NIUA	Pune
Ashima	Sood	India	Anant Nation- al University	
Pranshi	JAIN	India	M. I. T. S	Lashkar Gwalior
Venus	Kashyap	India	Igdtuw	
KOMAL	POTDAR	India	Bezalel academy	PUNE
Gitanjali	Rao	India	KLETECH, ADEI	Hubli
Ravindra Singh	Verma	India	SRS INVEST- MENT AD- VISORS IN- DIA LLP	
C K	Koshy	India	CEPT University	
RITHIK	PRAMOD	India	Maharaja saya- jirao university of Baroda	
Nitya	Khendry	India	Heritage Cell	Jaipur
Mayuri	Deodhar	India	SPA Bho- pal, Madhya Pradesh	Nagpur
Aditi	Sharma	India	Guru Nanak Dev University	UDHAMPUR
Saif	Siddiqui	India	Centre for Heritage Man- agement	
Vasanth	Kohilam	India	VK Atelier	Madurai South
Shalini	Ravikumar	India	Self - Employed	Chennai
Siddharth	Singh Jadon	India	Amity Univer- sity Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
Vedakumar	Manikonda	India	ICOMOS India	hyderabad

Kapil	Setia	India	Chd Admin- istration	Chandigarh
Nishant	Upadhyay	India	DHARATAL	LUCKNOW
Deepak	Das	India	Individual	Delhi
Amita	Baig	India	World Monu- ments Fund	Delhi India
Mayura	Gadkari	India	National In- stitute of Ur- ban Affairs	New Delhi
vaidehi	lavand	India	Brick school of Architecture	Pune
Bhavyasri	Sribalan	India	TN police museum	Chennai
Ratish	Nanda	India	Aga Khan Trust for Culture	New Delhi
Purnima	Chauhan	India	Indian Admin- istrative Ser- vice, HP Cadre	Shimla
Kamlesh Kumar	Sharma	India	Crafts Museum	Delhi
Dhanashree	Zadgaonkar	India	School of Planning and Architec- ture, Bhopal	NAGPUR
Mihir	Narayan	India	Jadavpur University	Patna
Gayathri	Hegde	India	Independant	
Nachiket	Patil	India	Private	Pune
Nidhi	Dandona	India	Sushant school of art and architecture, Ansal university	Gurgaon
Vedangi	Deshpande	India	DIT University Dehradun	Dehradun
Kiran	Joshi	India	ICOMOS India	Chandigarh
Sonali	Gurung	India	GITAM Uni- versity	Visakhapatnam
Poonam	Mascarenhas	India	ICOMOS INDIA	Goa
Hansmukh	Seth	India	The City Pal- ace Museum, Udaipur	Udaipur
Sanghamitra	Basu	India	ICOMOS India	Kolkata

Srishti	Ghosh	India	Pt. Deenday- al Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology	Jabalpur
Rishabh	Sharma	India	Dharatal	Lucknow
Sumita	Tayal	India	INTACH	Gurugram
Anuradha	Chaturvedi	India	School of Plan- ning & Archi- tecture, Delhi	Delhi
Jyoti	Singh	India	Jadavpur University	Jamshedpur
Gurmeet	Rai	India	crci	New Delhi
Madhushree	Bose	India	Independent professional	
NOUMAN	SIDDIQUI	INDIA	SCHOOL OF PLANNING & ARCHITEC- TURE, NEW DELHI	NEW DELHI
Ujwala	Menon	India	Aga Khan Trust for Culture	New Delhi
Lakshmi	R	India	CEPT Alumni	Madurai
Soumi	Nandi	India	Independent consultant	New Delhi
Vinod	Kumar MM	India	dd Architects	Thrissur
Ashish	Trambadia	India	Ahmedabad World Herit- age City Trust	Ahmedabad
shankar	narayan	India	Shankar narayan Ar- chitects	
Keerthana	Devi	India	Freelancee	Chennai
Saranya	Dharshini	India	ICOMOS India	Mumbai
Jana	Chaudhuri	India	Institute of Her- itage Research	
Rasika	Haval	India	KRVIA	Kolhapur
Shahzeb	Athar	India		Delhi
Poonam	V Mascarenhas	India		Goa
Mayura	Gadkari	India		New Delhi
Saumya	Tripathi	India		Noida
Madhushree	Bose	India		
KOMAL	POTDAR	India		PUNE
Vedangi	Deshpande	India		Dehradun, India

Rabindra	Vasavada	India		Ahmedabad, india
Vandana	Pusalkar	India		Kolhapur
Parul	.	India		Jaipur
Alice	Agarwal	India		AHMEDABAD
Neema	Parihar	India		Ahmedabad
Radhe	Yampi	India		Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh India
Bijoy	Kumar Choudhary	India		Patna
MITALI	MADHUSMITA	India		BHUBANE- SWAR
Dr. Meena	Gautam	India		New Delhi
Priyanka	Singh	India		
Priya	Gosain	India		
Tarun	puri	India		Jaipur
SUCHANDRA	BARDHAN	India		Kolkata
Gopika	Girissan	India		Thrissur District
Purnima	Chauhan	India		Shimla
Gitanjali	Rao	India		Hubli
Persis	Farooqy	India		Guwahati, Assam, India
Soumi	Nandi	India		New Delhi
Vinod	Kumar MM	India		Thrissur
VENUGOPAL	B	India		Ernakulam
C K	Koshy	India		
Aditi	Sharma	India		UDHAMPUR
Riyaz	Tayyibji	India		Ahmedabad
Mayuri	Deodhar	India		Nagpur
Dhanashree	Zadgaonkar	India		NAGPUR
Ar. Prof.	Jayaraman Nenmeli	India		CHENGAL- PATTU
Jeyaradha	J	India		CHENNAI
Ar.	Mullai. J	India		
Nachiket	Patil	India		Pune
Srishti	Ghosh	India		Jabalpur
Vedakumar	Manikonda	India		hyderabad
Ashima	Sood	India		
Vasantha	Kohilam	India		Madurai

Anuradha	Menon	India		Chennai
Rasika	Haval	India		Kolhapur
Gayathri	Hegde	India		Dharwad
Chetana	Hamsagar	India		Bangalore
Ravindra Singh	Verma	India		
Amareswar	Galla	India		
aditi	Arora	India		FARIDABAD
Ujwala	Menon	India		New Delhi
Janhavi	Shirsekar	India		Thane (west)
Manivannan	Rajendran	India		
Anuradha	Chaturvedi	India		Delhi
Rithik	Pramod	India		
Aditi	Deshpande	India		Aurangabad
Rishabh	Sharma	India		Lucknow
vaidehi	lavand	India		Pune
Shalini	Ravikumar	India		Chennai
NOUMAN	SIDDIQUI	INDIA		NEW DELHI
Saif	Siddiqui	India		
Saranya	Dharshini	India		Mumbai
Deepak	Das	India		Delhi
Lakshmi	R	India		Madurai
Ratish	Nanda	India		Delhi
Ratish	Nanda	India		New Delhi
Nishant	Upadhyay	India		LUCKNOW
Jigna	Desai	India		Ahmedabad
Pankaj	Manchanda	India		NEW DELHI
Ar	Mullai. J	India	PMIST- Vallam	Thanjavur
SHIKHA	JAIN	India		
Komal Potdar		India		
Nitya	Khendry	India		
ARUSHI	MALHOTRA	India		
Nitya	Khendry	India		
Priyanka	Singh	India		
ARUSHI	MALHOTRA	India		
Neha	Dewan	India		
Priyanka	Singh	India		
Priyanka	Panjwani	India		
Ashima	Sood	India		

Neha Dewan		India		
Shirley Ballaney		India		
Vedangi Deshpande		India		
Manish	Chakraborti	India		Calcutta
Shilpa	jain	India		New Delhi
Jana	Chaudhuri	India		
A	d	India		
Fathia	Husna	Indonesia		Yogyakarta
Soehardi	Hartono	Indonesia		Medan
Yulsi	Munir	Indonesia		Padang
Laretna T	Adishakti	Indonesia		yogyakarta
Soehardi	Hartono	Indonesia		Medan
Etika Sukma	Adiyanti	Indonesia	Kudus	Kudus
Fathia	Husna	Indonesia	Private	Yogyakarta - Mantrijeron
Punto	Wijayanto	Indonesia	FTSP Universitas Trisakti	Jakarta
Rahmat Gino	Sea Games	Indonesia		Sawahlunto
Tjahjana	Indra Kusuma	Indonesia		Malang
I Gusti Ayu Laxmy	Saraswaty	Indonesia		Denpasar
Maya	Rosa	Indonesia		Bandung
Parastoo	Eshrati	Iran	University of Tehran	Tehran
Afsaneh	Soltani	Iran	Cultural Heritage Base for Shiraz Historic City	Shiraz
Michael	Turner	Israel	Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design	Jerusalem
Adi	Sela Wiener	Israel	ICOMOS IL, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design	Jerusalem
Guy	Kav-Venaki	Israel	Israel national commission for Unesco	Tel Aviv
Katia	Basili	Italy		Venezia
Monica	Bedini	Italy		Mantova
Maria Elisa	Maffioletti	Italy		San Gimignano

Chiara	Tanturli	Italy		Manciano
Agnieszka	Smigiel	Italy		pomezia
FEDERICO	BIANCHESSI	Italy		Cremona
Katia	Basili	Italy		Venezia
Monica	Bedini	Italy		Mantova
Maria Elisa	Maffioletti	Italy		San Gimignano
francesca	pajno	Italy		Roma
Sara	Bertini	Italy		Firenze
Elisa	Fallani	Italy	Ufficio Pat- rimonio Mondiale	Firenze
Anna Paola	Pola	Italy	WHITRAP Shanghai	Brescia
giancarlo	ferulano	Italy	ICOM	Napoli
Maria Elisa	Maffioletti	Italy	Comune di San Gimignano	San Gimignano
Sara	Bertini	Italy	Università di Firenze	Ancona
Edoardo	Marini	Italy	Comune della Città di Pienza	Pienza
Sara	Bertini	Italy		Ancona
elisa	Fallani	Italy		
Paola	Falini	Italy		Rome
Carlo	Francini	Italy		Florence
Alessandra	Riccadonna	Italy		mantova
Adele	CESI	Italy		Rome
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		SAN GIMI- GNANO
Mariangela	Busi	Italy		Mantua
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		Mantova
francesca	pajno	Italy		Rome
Mariyam Yasmin	Baagil	Italy		
Carlo	Francini	Italy		
Katia	Basili	Italy		
Monica	Bedini	Italy		
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		
Mariyam Yasmin	Baagil	Italy		Rome
Carlo	Francini	Italy		Florence

Erminia	Sciacchitano	Italy		Roma
Adele	CESI	Italy		Rome
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		SAN GIMI- GNANO
Mariangela	Busi	Italy		Mantua
Agnieszka	Smigiel	Italy		Rome
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		Mantova
elisa	Fallani	Italy		florence
LUANA	ALESSANDRINI	Italy		Urbino
Mariyam Yasmin	Baagil	Italy		Rome
Carlo	Francini	Italy		Florence
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		san gimignano
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		Mantova
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		san gimignano
Mariyam Yasmin	Baagil	Italy		Rome
Carlo	Francini	Italy		Florence
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		Mantova
mariyam yas- min baagil		Italy		Rome
Carlo	Francini	Italy		Florence
Joseph	King	Italy		Rome
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		san gimignano
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		Mantova
Loredana Rita	Scuto	Italy	HeRe Lab	
Michela	Masciocchi	Italy	University of Trento	
Monica	Bedini	Italy	Municipality of Mantua	Mantua
Mariangela	Busi	Italy	Comune di Mantova	Mantova
jiayao	jiang	Italy	Sapienza Uni- versity of Rome	Rome
Carolina	Taddei	Italy	Comune di San Gimignano	San Gimignano
INGRID	VENEROSO	Italy	Associazione Beni Italiani Patrimonio Mondiale	FERRARA
Joseph	King	Italy	ICCROM	Rome

Alessia	Montacchini	Italy	HeRe_Lab - Heritage Research	Florence
TERESA	COLLETTA	Italy	University of Naples “Fed- erico II”	NAPLES
Leticia	Sanches	Italy	Independent professional	Mantova
Carlo	Francini	Italy	Municipality of Florence	Florence
Pier Luigi	Sacco	Italy	IULM University	Milan
LUANA	ALESSANDRINI	Italy	municipality of Urbino	Urbino
Rohit	Jigyasu	Italy	ICCROM	Rome
Carlo	Francini	Italy		Florence
Rohit	Jigyasu	Italy		Rome
Teresa	Gualtieri	Italy		
LUANA	ALESSANDRINI	Italy		Urbino
Carolina	Taddei	Italy		San Gimignano
Alessia	Montacchini	Italy		Florence
INGRID	VENEROSO	Italy		Ferrara
Leticia	Sanches	Italy		Mantova
Katia	Basili	Italy		Venice
Adele	Cesi	Italy		Rome
Mariangela	Busi	Italy		Mantova
Paola	Falini	Italy		
Lisa	Bitossi	Italy		
Anita	Floridi	Italy		Perugia
francesco	chiacchiera	Italy		ancona
Michela	Masciocchi	Italy		
Luisa	De Marco	Italy		Genoa
TERESA	COLLETTA	Italy		NAPLES
Maria Estefania	Gioia	Italy		Mantua
Joseph	King	Italy		
Loredana Rita	Scuto	Italy		
Monica Bedini - Mantua Mu- nicipality - Italy		Italy		
Denice	Hall-Ram- harrack	Jamaica		Kingston
Lisa	Stiebel	Jamaica		Kingston

Lisa	Lindo	Jamaica		Kingston
Everton	Hannam	Jamaica	Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO	Kingston
Pat	Green, Jamaica	Jamaica	University of Technology, Jamaica	kingston
Denice	Hall-Ramharrack	Jamaica	University of Technology, Jamaica	Kingston
Garfield	Young	Jamaica	University of Technology, Jamaica	
Debra	Palmer	Jamaica	Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	Kingston
Ruth	Scott	Jamaica		
Doris	Gross	Jamaica		
Shigeru	Satoh	Japan		Funabashi City
Naoko	Fukami	Japan		
OLIMPIA	NIGLIO	Japan		TOKYO
Shakya	Lata	Japan		Kyoto
Mariko	Fujiok	Japan	Kokugakuin University	
HIROKI	YAMADA	Japan	URDI	
Shakya	Lata	Japan	Ritsumeikan University	Kyoto
Shigeru	Satoh	Japan	Waseda University	Funabashi City
MITSURU	EBIHARA	Japan	University of Tsukuba	
Yukio	Nishimura	Japan	Kokugakuin University	2-4-7, Shinden, Ichikawa, Chiba
Yuya	Tsuda	Japan	UNU-IAS	
Saori	Kashihara	Japan	The University of Tokyo	
Mariko	Fujioka	Japan		
Yuya	Tsuda	Japan		
Shakya	Lata	Japan		Kyoto
Saori	Kashihara	Japan		
Yoshiko	Takubo	Japan		

Akuorkor	Plahar	Kenya		
Linda	Mboya	Kenya	National Museums of Kenya --	Nairobi
Laura	Petrella	Kenya	UN-Habitat	Nairobi
Amphol	Sengphachanh	Laos		Champasak
Xaykone	Phonesavath	Laos		LuangPrabang
Amphol	Sengphachanh	Laos		Champasak
amnath	PHADY	Laos		Laos
Amphol	Sengphachanh	Laos		
Amphol	Sengphachanh	Laos		Champasak
amnath	PHADY	Laos		Laos
Xaykone		Laos		LuangPrabang
Amphol	Sengphachanh	Laos	Vat Phou- World Heritage Site Office	Champasak
Sengthong Lueyang Luang Prabang, Laos		Laos		
Aigars	Kušķis	Latvia		Riga
George	Arbid	Lebanon		Beirut
Jad	Tabet	Lebanon		Beirut
Costanza	Farina	Lebanon		Beirut
JOE	KREIDI	Lebanon		BEIRUT
George	Arbid	Lebanon		Beirut
Ghassan	Chemali	Lebanon		Beirut
Ghassan	Chemali	Lebanon		
Ghassan	Chemali	Lebanon	icomos lebanon	Beirut
Adonis	El Hussein	Lebanon	UNESCO World Heritage Centre	Tripoli
jad Tabet		Lebanon	Ordre des ingénieurs et architectes	Beyrouth
Matilda Khoury		Lebanon		
George	Arbid	Lebanon		
Nthabiseng	Mokoe- na-Mokhali	Lesotho	National University of Lesotho	Maseru

Darius D.	Gweh	Liberia	Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism	Monrovia
Enrika	Trofimovienė	Lithuania		Vilnius
Arūnas	Giraitis	Lithuania		
Jurate	Markeviciene	Lithuania		Vilnius
Gytis	Oržikauskas	Lithuania		Vilnius
Dalia	Vasiliūnienė	Lithuania		Vilnius
Sigita	Bugenienė	Lithuania		Kaunas
Rugile	Puodziuniene	Lithuania		Vilnius
Rugile	Puodziuniene	Lithuania	Ministry of Culture	Vilnius
Sigita	Bugenienė	Lithuania	Kaunas City Municipal Administration	Kaunas
Jurate	Markeviciene	Lithuania	ICOMOS Lithuania	
Ausra	Lapiene	Lithuania	Department of Cultural Heritage	Vilnius
Dalia	Vasiliūnienė	Lithuania		Vilnius
Robert	Philippart	Luxembourg	Ministère de la Culture	Luxembourg
Vicky	Chen	Macao, China	Macao Institute for Tourism Studies	Macao
AHMED	BAJISH	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Elizabeth	Cardosa	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Md Nazri	Mohd Noordin	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Anne	Yuen	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Sazlin	Sabri	Malaysia		Penang
AHMED SADEK	BAJISH	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Alisa	Azlan	Malaysia		George Town
AHMED SADEK	BAJISH	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Elizabeth	Cardosa	Malaysia		Kuala Lumpur
Boon Nee	Ng	Malaysia	George Town World Heritage Incorporated	Penang
Elida	Ong	Malaysia	DDDSB	Penang
Md Nazri	Mohd Noordin	Malaysia	Iktisas Planners Sdn Bhd	Kuala Lumpur

AHMED SAD-EQ UPM		Malaysia	University Putra Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Elizabeth	Cardosa	Malaysia	ICOMOS Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
erne	hamsah	malaysia	Melaka world heritage sdn bhd	melaka
Moussa Moriba	Diakité	Mali		Djenné
ALPHA	DIOP	Mali		BAMAKO
Lassana	Cissé	Mali		BAMAKO
Moussa Moriba	Diakité	Mali		
ALPHA	DIOP	Mali		BAMAKO
Diakite	Moussa Moriba	Mali		Mali
Diakite	Moriba	Mali	Mission Culturelle de Djenné	Djenne
Alpha	DIOP	Mali	ICOMOS	
LASSANA	CISSE	Mali	Expert-consultant indépendant	BAMAKO
Diakite	Moussa Moriba	Mali		
Dr Raymond	Bondin	Malta		
Dr Raymond	Bondin	Malta		Ghajnsielem
Corinne	FOREST	Mauritius		Port Louis
julieta	borja lara	Mexico	municipio de guanajuato	guanajuato
juleta	borja lara	Mexico		guanajuato
Arq Octavio	Hernández Díaz	Mexico		Guanajuato
Alejandro	Alcaraz	Mexico		Mexico
DANIELA	CALDERON	Mexico		
Yoloxochitl	Lucio	Mexico		México City
Mariela	Velasco	Mexico		Puebla
MELISSA DEL ROSARIO	RAMIREZ TORRES	Mexico		Chetumal
Rocio	GARZA-LEON-ARD	Mexico		
Mably	Minjarez	Mexico		Puerto Vallarta
Mariela	Velasco	Mexico		Puebla
Eliber	Rieche Vilches	Mexico		Morelia
Daniela Calderón		Mexico		puebla
Maria	León	Mexico		Puebla

CARLOS	DUBERTY IRIARTE	Mexico		Querétaro
Maria Graciela León Puebla, México		Mexico		
Mably	Minjarez	Mexico		Puerto Vallarta
Rocio	GARZA-LEON-ARD	Mexico	ICOMOS, CARIMOS	
Valeria	Meléndez	Mexico	UNAM	
Francisco	López	Mexico	ICOMOS	Mexico
MELISSA DEL ROSARIO	RAMIREZ TORRES	Mexico	UADY	Chetumal
Jorge	Ortega	Mexico	ANCMPPM A.C.	Ciudad de México
Mariela	Velasco	Mexico	Secretaría de Cultura de Puebla - Secretary of Culture of Puebla	Puebla
Alejandra	Ramírez	Mexico	Visión Publica	Querétaro
Alejandro	Alcaraz	Mexico	UNESCO	Mexico
Gandhi	Baca	Mexico		Guanajuato
Adriana	Barranco Cuapio	Mexico		San Francisco Tetlanohcan
Carlos	Hiriart	Mexico		Morelia
Rafael	Ovalle Correa	Mexico		Jerez, Zacatecas
Orlando	Araque Pérez	Mexico		San Miguel de Allende
Sofia	León López	Mexico		Guanajuato, Gto.
Luis Eduardo	Martínez Rivera	Mexico		Guanajuato
Ilina Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico		Morelia
Gilda	Rivera	Mexico		Zapopan
Miriam	Roldán	Mexico		Guanajuato
VERONICA	ARANDA	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MEXICO
Alejandra	Ramírez	Mexico		Querétaro
Tania Elizabeth	Torres Castilleja	Mexico		San Luis Potosí
Emilio	Lara	Mexico		San Miguel de Allende
vidaura	cardos	Mexico		Mérida
José Luis	Fernández	Mexico		Aguascalientes

Teresita	Miravete	Mexico		Puebla
Diana	Morales	Mexico		Ciudad de México
Eliber	Riecher Vilches	Mexico		Morelia, Michoacán
joel	perea	Mexico		Querétaro
FRANCISCO	VIDARGAS	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MÉXICO
LUZ DE LOURDES	HERBERT	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MÉXICO
Yesenia	Hernández García	Mexico		Puebla
Andrea	Díaz	Mexico		Puebla
VERONICA	aranda	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MEXICO
Diana	Morales	Mexico		Ciudad de México
Centro Histórico	Morelia	Mexico		Morelia
Yesenia	Hernández García	Mexico		Puebla
joel	perea	Mexico		Querétaro
Iliana Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico		Morelia
Erika Ofelia	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		Zacatecas
Javier	Martinez Burgos	Mexico		Ciudad de México
VIDAURA	CARDOS	Mexico		Mérida
VERONICA	aranda	Mexico		
Diana	Morales	Mexico		
Iliana Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico		
Erika Ofelia	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		
Javier	Martinez Burgos	Mexico		
VERONICA	ARANDA	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MEXICO
Diana	Morales	Mexico		Ciudad de México
Carlos	Hiriart	Mexico		Morelia
Iliana Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico		Morelia
Erika Ofelia	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		Zacatecas
Javier	Martinez Burgos	Mexico		Ciudad de México

VERONICA	ARANDA	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MEXICO
ANA	MEYER	Mexico		Querétaro
Tejada	Carlos	Mexico		Mexico City
Gauri Ivette	García Medina	Mexico		Morelia
Yanet	Lezama	Mexico		Santiago de Querétaro
Margarita	Chávez Bir-rueta	Mexico		Morelia
Eva Medina		Mexico		Querétaro
David Jimenez		Mexico		QUERETARO
Alejandra	Ojeda	Mexico		Guanajuato
alejandra	ojeda	Mexico		Guanajuato
JOEL	PEREA	Mexico		Querétaro
FEDERICO	FLORES	Mexico		GUANAJUATO
Evangelina	Rosales	Mexico		puebla
Ilina Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico		Morelia
Ismael		Mexico		Morelia
Erika	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		Zacatecas
Yolistli	osorio	Mexico		Puebla
Javier	Martinez Burgos	Mexico		Ciudad de México
VIDAURA	CARDOS	Mexico		Mérida
yesica	vazquez	Mexico		PUEBLA
Cuauhtémoc	García Casas	Mexico		Ciudad de México
VERONICA	ARANDA	Mexico		CIUDAD DE MEXICO
Ilina Teresita	Ayala	Mexico		Morelia
Erika	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		Zacatecas
Verónica	Aranda	Mexico		Ciudad de México
ANA	MEYER	Mexico		Querétaro
Yanet	Lezama	Mexico		Santiago de Querétaro
Ilina Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico		Morelia
Erika Ofelia	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		Zacatecas
Diana	Morales	Mexico	INBAL	Ciudad de México
Miriam	Roldán	Mexico	Particular	Guanajuato

Ana Lucía	González Aguilera	Mexico	Dirección Medio Ambiente y Ordenamiento Territorial de Guanajuato (UGECH)	Guanajuato
Yesenia	Hernández García	Mexico	Gerencia del Centro Histórico y Patrimonio Cultural	Puebla
José Luis	Fernández	Mexico	Privada	Aguascalientes
FRANCISCO	VIDARGAS	Mexico	DIRECCIÓN DE PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL / INAH	CIUDAD DE MÉXICO
Emilio	Lara	Mexico	Municipal	San Miguel de Allende
VIDAURA	CARDOS	Mexico	UADY	Mérida
Tania Elizabeth	Torres Castilleja	Mexico	INAH	San Luis Potosí
Orlando Araque		Mexico	Arquitectura, Gestión e Interpretación del Patrimonio en el Turismo	San Miguel de Allende
María José	Ramírez	Mexico	.	Guanajuato
Eva	Rosales	Mexico	Secretaría de Cultura	Puebla
Ilana Teresita	Gutiérrez Ayala	Mexico	UMSNH	Morelia
Erika	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico	Instituto Regional del Patrimonio Mundial en Zacatecas, Centro Categoría 1	Zacatecas
VERONICA	ARANDA	Mexico	ENCRyM	CIUDAD DE MEXICO
Centro Histórico	Morelia	Mexico	Centro Histórico	Morelia
DANIELA	CALDERON	Mexico	Secretaría de cultura	Puebla
LUZ DE LOURDES	HERBERT	Mexico	DIRECCIÓN DE PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL / INAH	MÉXICO

JOEL	PEREA	Mexico	Coordinación de Ciudades Patrimonio de la Humanidad	Querétaro
Carlos	Hiriart	Mexico	Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo / ICOMOS México	Morelia
Yoloxochitl	Lucio	Mexico	ICOMOS	México City
Javier	Martinez Burgos	Mexico	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Ciudad de México
Erika Ofelia	Rentería Ruiz	Mexico		Zacatecas
Javier	Martinez Burgos	Mexico		Ciudad de México
Patricia	Mendoza	Mexico		Morelia
José Luis	Rodríguez	Mexico		Morelia
SERGIO	VERGARA BERDEJO	Mexico		PUEBLA
Mónica	Juárez Peñuela	Mexico		Puebla
Yesenia	Hernández	Mexico		Puebla
Segio de la Luz	Vergara Berdejo	Mexico	SECRETARIA DE CULTURA	PUEBLA
Enrique	Torres	Mexico		Queretaro
Alejandro. Morales		Mexico		Queretaro
Elizabeth	Durán	Mexico		
Luis Alejandro	Morales Rodríguez	Mexico	INSTITUTO MUNICIPAL DE PLANEACIÓN	Querétaro
JOEL	PEREA	Mexico		
Segio de la Luz	Vergara Berdejo	Mexico		
YesicaVAM		Mexico		
Juan Carlos	Delgado Zárate	Mexico		
Sergio	Vergara	Mexico		
daniela	calderón	Mexico		
Verónica	Aranda Jimenez	Mexico		
Segio de la Luz	Vergara Berdejo	Mexico		
Adis	Kovacevic	Montenegro		Herceg Novi

salma	daoui	Morocco		Fes
Aboulkacem	CHEBRI	Morocco		El Jadida
Khalid	EL HARROUNI	Morocco		RABAT
Imane	BENNANI	Morocco		RABAT
Zineb	m'hammedi	Morocco		RABAT
salma	daoui	Morocco	conservation régionale du patrimoine culturel fès meknès	Fes
Zineb	Alaoui m'hammedi	Morocco	Université internation- ale de rabat	RABAT
Imane	BENNANI	Morocco	Université internation- ale de rabat	RABAT
Karim	Hendili	Morocco		Rabat
Aboulkacem	CHEBRI	Morocco		EI-JADIDA
Ofelia	Silva	Mozambique	UNESCO	Maputo
Elia	Bila	Mozambique		Maouto
Celestino	Siane	Mozambique		Maputo
win thant	win Shwin	Myanmar		mandalay
Su	Su	Myanmar	ICOMOS My- anmar	Yangon
Raj	maharjan	Nepal		Kathmandu
Nabha	Basnyat Thapa	Nepal		Lalitpur
Nipuna	Shrestha	Nepal		Kathmandu
Nilima	Shrestha	Nepal		Kathman- du Valley
nihal	rana	Nepal		kathmadu
Rija	Joshi	Nepal	Genesis	Kathmandu
Nabha	Basnyat Thapa	Nepal	UNESCO Office in Kathmandu	Lalitpur
Nipuna	Shrestha	Nepal	UNESCO	Kathmandu
Nilima	Shrestha	Nepal	City Planning Commission	Kathman- du Valley
Hasti Tarekat	Dipowijoyo	Netherlands		Amsterdam
Carol West- rik - Westrik Consultancy / ROCAAR		Netherlands		Hoenderloo

Cees	van Rooijen	Netherlands	Dutch Cul- tural Herit- age Agency	
Jean-Paul	Corten	Netherlands	RCE	Utrecht
Hasti Tarekat	Dipowijoyo	Netherlands	Heritage hands on	Amsterdam
Carola	Hein	Netherlands		Delft
Hilde	Sennema	Netherlands		Rotterdam
Leo	Li	Netherlands		Eindhoven
Jean-Paul	Coretn	Netherlands		Utrecht
Nan	Bai	Netherlands		Delft
Huang	Huang	Netherlands		Delft
cees	van Rooijen	Netherlands		
Carola	Hein	Netherlands		
Azadeh	Kermani	Netherlands		Veenendaal
Carola	Hein	Netherlands		Delft
Ji	Li	Netherlands	TU Eindhoven	Eindhoven
Nan	Bai	Netherlands	TU Delft	Delft
rogier	van den berg	Netherlands	World Resourc- es Institute	rotterdam
Kaiyi	ZHU	Netherlands	Technische Universite- it Delft	Delft
Azadeh	Kermani	Netherlands	TUDelft	Veenendaal
Carola	Hein	Netherlands	Delft University of Technology	Delft
Huang	Huang	Netherlands	TU Delft	Delft
Tianchen	Dai	Netherlands		Delft
Sanne	de Koning	Netherlands		Vught
Tianchen	Dai	Netherlands	Delft University of Technology	Delft
Azadeh		Netherlands		
Haryeri	Gómez	Nicaragua		Masaya
Haryeri Na- deishda	Gómez Ortiz	Nicaragua	Arquitecto independiente	Masaya
Babagana	Abubakar	Nigeria		Maiduguri
Memunat	Idu-Lah	Nigeria		Abuja
Tokie	Brown	Nigeria		
Babagana	Abubakar	Nigeria		Maiduguri
Afolasade	ADEWUMI	Nigeria		Ibadan
Ifeanyi	Ajaegbo	Nigeria		Abuja

Tokie	Brown	Nigeria	ICOMOS Nigeria	
Ishanlosen	Odiaua	Nigeria	ICOMOS-Ni- geria	
Juliana	Strogan	Norway	Vestfold and Telemark County council	Skien
Naima	Benkari	Oman		Muscat
Ayesha Pamela	Rogers	Pakistan		Lahore
Meeza	Ubaid	Pakistan		Karachi
Ayesha Pamela	Khan	Pakistan		Lahore
Ayesha Pamela	Rogers	Pakistan	Rogers Kola- chi Khan and Associates	Lahore
Hanan	Najajreh	Palestine		Bethlehem
Paola	Gomez	Panama		Paris
Silvia	Arroyo	Panama		Panamá
Katti	Osorio	Panama		Panama
Silvia	Arroyo	Panama	ICOMOS Panamá	Panamá
Silvia	Rey	Paraguay	Universidad Nacional de Asunción	Asunción
Sara Beatriz	Guardia	Peru		Lima
Ernesto	Fernandez Polcuch	Peru		Lima
Rosa	CUSIPUMA ARTEAGA	Peru		Lima
Ernesto	Fernandez Polcuch	Peru	UNESCO	Lima
Rosa	CUSIPUMA ARTEAGA	Peru	Ministerio de Educación	Lima
Luis Martín	Bogdanovich	Peru		Lima
Giovanna Magdalena	Lazo Valdivia	Peru		Arequipa
Merly Ebony	Delgadillo Yupanqui	Peru		Lima
Maya	Ishizawa	Peru		Bonn (Ger- many)
Luis Martín	Bogdanovich	Peru		Lima

Sara Beatriz	Guardia	Peru	Catedra UNES- CO Patrimonio Cultural y Turis- mo Sostenible. Universidad de San Martín de Porres	Lima
Garner Ted G.	Olavere	Philippines		Sorsogon City
Kenneth	Tua	Philippines		Pasig
Garner Ted G.	Olavere	Philippines	Philippines Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP)	Sorsogon City
Gabriel Ca- ballero		Philippines		
Barbara	Furmanik	Poland		Warsaw
Marta	Zakowska	Poland		Warsaw
Katarzyna	Piotrowska	Poland		Warsaw
Robert	Piaskowski	Poland	Municipality of Krakow - Plen- ipotentary of the May- or of Krakow for Culture	Kraków
Renata	Kondraciuk	Poland	Zamosc Town Hall	Zamosc
Barbara	Furmanik	Poland	National Insti- tute of Cultural Heritage Cen- tre for World Heritage	Warsaw
Renata	Kondraciuk	Poland		
Vivina	Carreira	Portugal		Coimbra
teresa	ferreira	Portugal		Porto
Ricardo	Rodrigues	Portugal		GUIMARÃES
Paula	Santos	Portugal		Évora
Manuel	Lacerda	Portugal		Lisboa
Miguel	Pedro	Portugal		Évora
Freitas	Maria José	Portugal		Lisbon
ana.silva.dias		Portugal		Lisboa
Ana	Tarrafa Silva	Portugal		Faro
Maria José	Freitas	Portugal		Lisboa
Isabel	Silva	Portugal		Coimbra
teresa	ferreira	Portugal		Portugal

Vivina	Carreira	Portugal		Coimbra
Vivina	Carreira	Portugal		
Ana	Tarrafa Silva	Portugal		Faro
Manuel	Lacerda	Portugal		Lisboa
Alexandra	Gonçalves	Portugal		Faro
Sílvia	Quinteiro	Portugal		Faro
Paula	Santos	Portugal		Évora
Maria Ana	Silva Dias	Portugal		Lisboa
Filipe	Themudo Barata	Portugal		Lisbon
Vivina	Carreira	Portugal		Coimbra
teresa	ferreira	Portugal	UNESCO Chair	Porto
Maria José	Freitas	Portugal	ICOMOS	Lisboa
Manuel	Lacerda	Portugal	Direção Geral do Património Cultural, Portugal	Lisboa
Miguel	Pedro	Portugal	Câmara Municipal de Évora	Évora
Paula	Santos	Portugal	Municipality	Evora
Filipe	Barata	Portugal	University of Évora	Lisbon
Vivina	Carreira	Portugal	Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra	Coimbra
Ricardo	Rodrigues	Portugal	Município de Guimarães	Guimarães
Sílvia Quinteiro		Portugal		
Alexandra	Gonçalves	Portugal		
Alexandra Gonçalves		Portugal		
Jungeun	Lee	Republic of Korea		
Jiewon	Song	Republic of Korea	Seoul National University	Seoul
Sewon	HWANG	Republic of Korea	Seoul City Wall Div., Seoul Metropolitan Government	
Jors	Ilariana	Romania		Voluntari
Ilariana Maria Jors		Romania		
Camelia Moise		Romania		

Olga	Maximova	Russian Fed- eration	RANEPa	Moscow
Tatiana	Shefova	Russian Fed- eration		Vladimir
Bandar	Almalak	Saudi Arabia		Riyadh
Norah	Alkhamis	Saudi Arabia		
Naif	Alshudukhi	Saudi Arabia		Juubah, Hail, Hail Region
Bandar	Almalak	Saudi Arabia		
Norah	Alkhamis	Saudi Arabia		
Papa	SY	Saudi Arabia		Jeddah
Bandar	AlMalaq	Saudi Arabia	Heritage Commission	Riyadh
Naif	Alshudukhi	Saudi Arabia	Ministry of Cul- ture (Heritage Commission)	Juubah, Hail, Hail Region
Norah	Alkhamis	Saudi Arabia	Heritage Commission	
Annie	Jouga	Senegal		Dakar
Pierre	Wenzel	Senegal		Dakar
Ndiaye	Moustaph	Senegal	gestion- naire site île saint-louis S/C Direction du patrimoine	saint-louis
Gabriel	Caballero	Singapore		Singapore
Tomaž	Štoka	Slovenia		
Tatjana	Dizdarevic	Slovenia		idrija
Jernej	Červek	Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	
Tomaž	Štoka	Slovenia	Museum of Architecture and Design	Ljubljana
Tatjana	Dizdarevič	Slovenia	Idrija Mercu- ry Heritage Management Centre	Idrija
Olga	Bialostocka	South Africa		Pretoria
Carlton	Mukwevho	South Africa		Pretoria
Shahid	Vawda	South Africa		Cape Town
Souayibou	Varissou	South Africa		Johannesburg

Kobie	Brand	South Africa	ICLEI	Century City, Cape Town
Olga	Bialostocka	South Africa	HSRC	Pretoria
zayd	Minty	South Africa	creative city south	johannesburg
Edgar	Pieterse	South Africa	African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town	Cape Town
Souayibou	Varissou	South Africa	African World Heritage Fund	Johannesburg
Francisco José	Rufián Fernández	Spain		Getafe
MARIA	DEL POZO LÓPEZ	Spain	Fundación Aranjuez Paisaje Cultural	ARANJUEZ
Rosa	Ruiz Entre-canales	Spain		España
vgpazsaa		Spain		Vitoria-Gasteiz
Francisco José	Rufián	Spain		
Pilar	Rodriguez	Spain		Madrid
Sergio	Vidal	Spain		
Marta	Llobet	Spain		
Ksenija	Krsmanovic	Spain		Valladolid
jordi	pascual	Spain		
pablo	Longoria	Spain		madrid
Manuel	Mantilla de los Ríos	Spain		Córdoba
pablo	Longoria	Spain		madrid
Ksenija	Krsmanovic	Spain		Valladolid
Pablo	Longoria	Spain	World Monuments Fund	madrid
Manuel	Mantilla de los Ríos	Spain	Director Delegación municipal Casco Histórico Ayuntamiento	Córdoba
Gia	Pelagio	Spain	'-	Bilbao
Francisco José	Rufián	Spain	Madrid Council	
Myriam	Ugarte Abollado	Spain	Ministerio de Cultura	Madrid
Carlota	Marijuan Rodriguez	Spain		

Alicia	Cahn	Spain		
Uzman	Anver	Sri Lanka		Galle
Kumara Dhammika	Maha Mu-handiramge	Sri Lanka		Galle
Tharmila	Vigneswarana-than	Sri Lanka		
Uzman Anver		Sri Lanka		
Luís	Martínez	Sweden	Zencerro	Estocolmo
Carolina	Boström	Sweden	Länsstyrelsen i Blekinge län	Karlskrona
Lisa	Carlson	Sweden	Karlskrona kommun	Karlskrona
Shadia	Toyqan	Sweden		Stockholm
Carolina	Boström	Sweden		Karlskrona
Ruta	Lukosiunaite	Sweden	Lund University, Taurage municipality, Own business	Sodra Sandby
Shadia	Touqan	Sweden	NA	Stockholm
Lisa	Carlson	Sweden		
Tim	Badman	Switzerland	IUCN	Lausanne
Roula	Aboukhater	Syria	Faculty of architecture	
Shumei	Huang	Taiwan		
Robert	Chang	Taiwan	Institute of Historical Resources Management	
Injee	Kim	Thailand		Bangkok
Injee	Kim	Thailand		Bangkok
Injee	Kim	Thailand	UNESCO	Bangkok
Kara	Roopsingh	Trinidad and Tobago		
Kara	Roopsingh	Trinidad and Tobago	National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain
Kara Roopsingh		Trinidad and Tobago		
Arwa	Lefy	Tunisia		
Mouid	HANI	Tunisia		Carthage
Abdelkarim	Touati	Tunisia		
Walid	Khalfalli	Tunisia		

Naceur	Bouabid	Tunisia		
Montassar	Jmour	Tunisia		
Amri	Sana	Tunisia		
Mouid	HANI	Tunisia	National herit- age institute	Carthage
Boubaker	Houman	Tunisia		Carthage
LOUERDIAN	FERJANI	Tunisia		
Khaled	DHIFI	Tunisia		
Leila	Sebai	Tunisia		
mouid	hani	Tunisia		
sabrine	M'farrej	Tunisia		
Boubaker	Houman	Tunisia		
hayet		Tunisia		
OUAFA	SLIMANE	Tunisia		
Abaili	Mongi	Tunisia		
Boubaker	Houman	Tunisia	Club UNESCO ALECSO Savoir et Développe- ment Durable	Carthage
Hayet		Tunisia	Mairie	
Hamida	RHOUMA	Tunisia	Institut Na- tional du Patrimoine	Tunis
Montassar	JMOUR	Tunisia	Institut na- tional du patrimoine	Tunis
Nesrine	Derbel	Tunisia		
KIVILCIM NESE	AKDOGAN	Turkey		Ankara
Fulya	Baran	Turkey		Istanbul
iclal	dincer	Turkey		istanbul
Irem	Alpaslan	Turkey		
ARUSHI	MALHOTRA	UAE		Dubai
Nirzary	Pujara	UAE	Conservation Architect	
Matteo	Rosati	UNESCO		
Guiomar	Alonso	UNESCO		
Matteo	Rosati	UNESCO	UNESCO	
Mike	Collins	United King- dom		Whitley Bay
Edward	Denison	United King- dom	UCL	

Irem	Alpaslan	United King- dom	N/A	
yitong	ma	United King- dom	University of London	London
Oriel	Prizeman	United King- dom	Cardiff Uni- versity	Cardiff
Mike	Collins	United King- dom	Historic England	Whitley Bay
Ruxandra-Iulia	Stoica	United King- dom		Edinburgh
Alexandra	Warr	United King- dom		London
John	Lowe	United King- dom		Durham
Alexandra	Warr	United King- dom		London
Penelope	Gibson	United King- dom		Durham
Anisa	Lloja	United King- dom		UK
Sue	Childs	United King- dom		Durham
Ruxandra-Iulia	Stoica	United King- dom	The University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh
Russell	Galt	United King- dom	IUCN	Edinburgh
Excellent	Hansda	United King- dom	University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh
Saif	Siddiqui	United King- dom		
yitong	ma	United King- dom		
Charlotte	Andrews	United King- dom		
Jane	Gibson	United King- dom		
Irem	Alpaslan	United King- dom		
Patricia	ODonnell	United States of America		Charlotte
Carl	Klein	United States of America		
Anhad	Viswanath	United States of America		

Eduardo	Rojas	United States of America		Washington
Marsha	McDonald	United States of America	Seacrest Designs	Ft Lauderdale
Gregory	Luhan	United States of America	Texas A&M University	College Station
Lydia	Loopesko	United States of America		Denver
Samantha	Rose	United States of America	Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore
Blonnie	Burnham	United States of America	Cultural Heritage Finance Alliance (CHiFA)	New York, NY
Susan	Macdonald	United States of America	Getty Conservation Institute	Los Angeles
Jeff	Cody	United States of America	Getty Conservation Institute	Los Angeles
Adriana	Careaga	Uruguay		Montevideo
Claudia Estrella	Prieto Mullattieri	Uruguay	Técnica en Gestión de Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Sustentable	Rivera
Ines	Cadenazzi	Uruguay	ICOMOS Uruguay	Montevideo
Saida	Azimova	Uzbekistan		Tashkent
Martin	Padron	Venezuela		Caracas
Mai Anh	Tran	Viet Nam		Ho Chi Minh City
Nabil	Munassar	Yemen	UNESCO	Sana'a
Chilangwa	Chaiwa	Zambia	National Heritage Conservation Commission	Lusaka
Butholezwe	Nyathi	Zimbabwe		Bulawayo
Rodney	Bunhiko	Zimbabwe		Harare
Butholezwe	Nyathi	Zimbabwe		Bulawayo
Nhamo	Muboko	Zimbabwe	Chinhoyi University of Technology	Chinhoyi
Muhammad Juma	Muhammad	Zimbabwe		

